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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

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I N S I D E

ASIA



The Philippines expresses alarm over alleged Malaysian abuses.

► **PAGE 15**

FOCUS



Sultan Jamalul Kiram III's kingdom sits in a rundown two-story house.

► **PAGE 17**

OVERDRIVE



Why do most cars have speedometers that show top speeds they can't reach?

► **PAGE 18**

AG says investigation on ICS contract ongoing. PAGE 3
Regents turn in evaluation of Hart's performance. PAGE 5

Inos to US Labor: Extend transition

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos wrote acting U.S. Labor Secretary Seth D. Harris yesterday to formally ask for a five-year extension on the federal immigration transition period that will expire on Dec. 31, 2014.

Without an extension of up to 2019, the CNMI could lose access to over 12,000 foreign workers it still needs to help run the tourism-based economy since most of these alien laborers do not qualify for conversion to an H1B status before deadline.

"The resident workforce pool still remains severely inadequate to fill all the jobs currently held by foreign workers," Inos said in his two-page letter to Harris.

Although the date on the letter is

See INOS on Page 4

Court issues penal summons vs Fitial

» **Two cops talk of instructions by Fitial, Ogumoro**

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has issued a penal summons against former governor Benigno R. Fitial in connection with an alleged conspiracy to shield former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham



Fitial

from being served a penal summons in August last year. Sources disclosed yesterday that the Office of the Public Auditor filed last week in Superior Court an affidavit in support of criminal allegations against Fitial.

Sources said the affidavit was filed by

See COURT on Page 4

New law compels Fund refunds

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed into law yesterday two key measures—one that

» **Hotel tax increased from 10 to 15 percent**

increases the hotel occupancy tax by 5 percentage points effective April 1 to help fund the promotion of the CNMI as a tourist destination, and another that compels the NMI Retirement Fund to release up to 50 percent of members' con-

See REFUNDS on Page 4

MORE INSIDE

► Two WWII veterans honored during Saipan visit.

PAGE 2

► Ex-convict allegedly tried to set building on fire.

PAGE 5

► Saipan chamber readies work with 18th Legislature.

PAGE 7



Newly sworn-in Public Defender Douglas Hartig, left, shakes hands with the governor's new senior policy adviser Pete A. Tenorio, right, as Gov. Eloy S. Inos, center, looks on after a news briefing on Capital Hill yesterday wherein the governor administered the oath of office for Hartig, announced Tenorio's appointment, and signed two bills into law.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Inos taps Pete A. as senior policy adviser

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos tapped former CNMI resident representative to Washington, D.C. Pete A. Tenorio to be his senior policy adviser, even as the three-week-old Inos administration continues its review of Cabinet

members' performances to help decide which ones to let go and retain.

"He works in my office but he works for all of us as well," Inos said when

» **Governor nominates ex-senator to MPLT board**

he announced Tenorio's appointment at a news briefing late yesterday morning in the governor's conference room.

Hours later, the governor's office announced that Inos also tapped for-

mer senator Maria Frica T. Pangelinan to serve as a member of the Marianas Public Land Trust board of trustees representing Saipan. Pangelinan's appointment now heads to the Senate for advice and consent.

Inos said Tenorio's years of public service experience in different capacities will be an asset to his administration.

Tenorio is a former CNMI resident

See PETE on Page 4



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Local

Two WWII veterans honored during Saipan visit



CLARISSA V. DAVID

The visiting group under Military Historical Tours, Inc. smiles for the camera following the wreath laying ceremony at the American Memorial Park Court of Honor on Saturday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Two war veterans who served in the Northern Marianas each received the World War II Medallion during a ceremony at the American Memorial Park on Saturday morning.

B-29 pilot Leroy Florence and Marine 4th Division's Hal Johnson were given the medallion, which features the WWII War in the Pacific emblem on one side and the official seals of the participating branches of service on the other side.

The medallion, a symbol of recognition and appreciation to veterans who served during the war that claimed thousands of lives of service members and civilians alike, was presented by CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office director Ben Camacho and VFW

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Historian and author Don Farrell poses with Military Historical Tours director of operations John Powell during Saturday's book signing event at the American Memorial Park.



Post 3457 representatives.

Florence and Johnson were part of the Military Historical Tours, Inc. group, led by MHT director of operations John Powell, which visited the Commonwealth from March 6 to 9.

The group laid a wreath at the park's Court of Honor where "a memorial stands with flags waving over beautiful plaques of marble which contain the names of over 5,000 who died during the battles and subsequent air campaigns."

Florence said that last week's visit is his first time to return to Saipan since the war. He first arrived as a lieutenant in the 878th Squadron, 499th Bomb Group in November 1944 and left in August 1945.

"It's an emotional time. I'm trying to remember what it was like at the time. This place was so different then from what it is now," said the 92-year-old veteran.

After the war, Florence became a salesman before he started his own business of selling airplanes before shifting to the electronics industry.

"At the age of 72, I decided it's time to retire," he added.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

B-29 pilot Leroy Florence, right, and Marines 4th Division's Hal Johnson lay a wreath at the American Memorial Park Court of Honor on Saturday morning. The two World War II veterans are part of the Military Historical Tours group that visited the CNMI on March 6 to 9.

Florence noted that his trip was filled with "a lot of care" since a captain on United Airlines paved the way for the airline company to sponsor his trip. Other people also contributed for their accommodations, he added.

Johnson, for his part, said this is his second trip to Saipan since the war, having participated in the 50th anniversary celebration in 1995.

"It's pretty and developed. I just love it. It's a beautiful island. Everything is pretty and the people are nice," he said.

While there have been a lot of changes since the war, Johnson said his war memories still remain vivid. "At night when you go to bed, you lay down and you bring pictures in your mind. It's sad."

Johnson, who turned 90 on Sunday, and the rest of the group also stopped by the park museum where historian and author Don Farrell had a book signing.

The group left for Guam on March 9 en route to Iwo Jima, an island in Japan that was another battle site between the U.S. Armed Forces and Japanese soldiers.

Seafix now certified to fix military, govt vessels

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Seafix, Inc. hosted a cocktail reception Friday evening in celebration of becoming the first company in the Northern Marianas to be awarded an Agreement for Boat Repair by the Military Sealift Command/Ship Support Unit in Guam.

The award indicates that Seafix, Inc. is now qualified to provide services to government-owned or operated vessels.

While the company has established itself as a ship repair and maintenance service provider for 17 years, the ABR certification demonstrates Seafix, Inc.'s commitment to quality standards that are up to par with those of the U.S. Navy, which are more stringent, according to Greg David.

"It's quite prestigious and we're proud of being able to get the boat repair certification because we're the first company

to achieve that in the CNMI. It just goes to show that Seafix focuses on safety and quality," said David, vice president of Ambyth Shipping & Trading.

Seafix, Inc., which specializes in steel fabrication, mechanical repairs, industrial painting, and corrosion control, is an affiliate of Ambyth group of companies.

David and other company executives, along with staff, welcomed dozens of military personnel and other guests at the 360 Revolving Restaurant in Susupe to mark another milestone in the company's nearly two-decade history.

General manager Mark R. Blackburn said the certification process was a huge undertaking that took over three years to complete, involving mainly completing a quality control and assurance procedural manual as well as passing exhaustive inspections and audits conducted by entities from Guam, Washington, D.C.,

and Yokosuka in Japan.

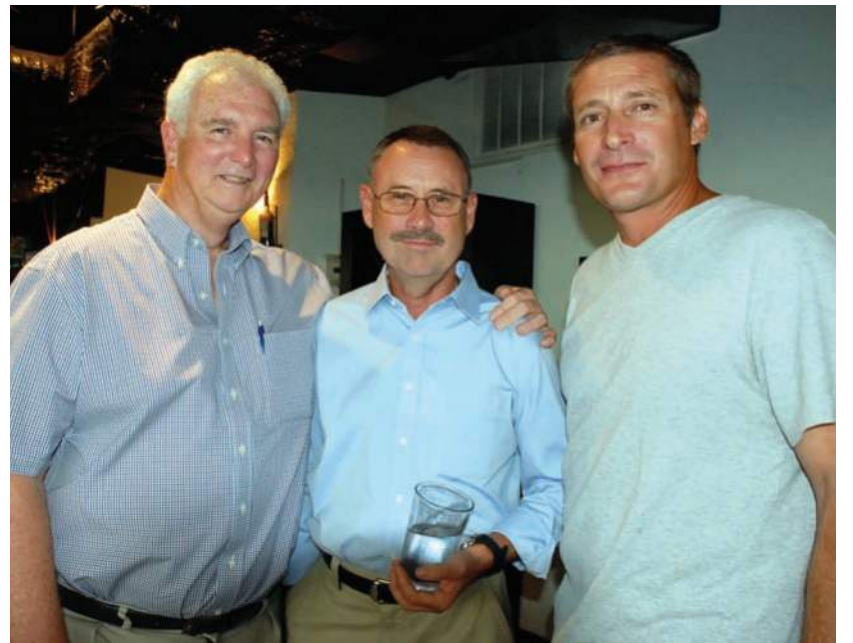
"It's been a long time coming," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "We're hoping that it's going to mean more business. Even more importantly, it would give us exclusivity."

Blackburn said that with the company's commitment to quality standards, their biggest challenge is dealing with "unqualified competition that underbids everything."

"Our ABR certification proves that we are a higher standard. It's now up to the customers to decide on what they want. Do they want cheap or do they want quality?" he said.

Blackburn noted that Seafix, Inc. will continue to improve its capabilities to serve their clients.

David, for his part, hinted of expansion plans for Seafix, possibly covering the neighboring island of Guam and some Asian countries.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

From left to right, Ambyth Shipping & Trading vice president Greg David, Seafix general manager Mark R. Blackburn, and supervisor-ship repair Kraig B. Church during Friday's event at the 360 Revolving Restaurant, which celebrated Seafix's Agreement for Boat Repair certification.

AG says investigation on ICS contract ongoing

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The investigation on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s voided contract with International Consulting Services is ongoing, according to Attorney General Joey San Nicolas. However, he could not immediately give a timeframe as to when the process will be completed.

Idaho-based ICS secured a six-year sole-source contract with the corporation in February 2012 to do billing and collection for the hospital.

Former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham later determined the contract to be costly and unlawful and he issued a cease-and-desist order.

The fallout from that failed deal resulted in the sudden termination of the hospital's chief operating officer, James Phillips, as he was the direct contact for the agreement and the matter was referred to the Office of the Attorney General for prosecution.

At a recent board meeting, corporation trustees expressed concern about the status of the OAG investigation following the relocation of Buckingham.

Saipan Tribune learned that ICS got an advanced payment of \$37,000 for work it didn't actually do. It was also recently disclosed that the corporation wrongfully deposited about \$150,000 to an ICS account.

CHCC CEO Juan N. Babauta, during the board's last meeting, said that he and other corporation officials were interviewed in 2012 by the Office of the Public Auditor and OAG about the ICS contract. The board later instructed Babauta to follow up on the matter with OAG and OPA.

CEO evaluation

Meantime, the board's special committee that is evaluating Babauta's performance confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that it will resume the process this week.

The committee was supposed to meet on March 5 to assess the result of an employees' survey conducted by the board on the three islands. This was postponed after panel chair Pete

Dela Cruz's flight from Rota was cancelled.

Dela Cruz said the evaluation process will resume Wednesday, March 13, in time for the panel's report and recommenda-

tion to the full board on Friday.

"The survey is complete but not counted. The committee as a whole will review. This will assure fairness and no hanky-panky, as some people will claim, no matter what we do," he told *Saipan Tribune*. Babauta's \$96,000 contract as CEO is

expiring in July this year.

Board chair Joaquin Torres said last week that the board temporarily postponed action on Babauta's contract at the request of Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who wants Babauta to focus on the exit of the commissioned corps team.

Nine Senate committee chairmanships finalized

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) finalized yesterday a list of nine committee chairmanships following the reshuffle that saw the ascension of former Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider to the post of lieutenant governor and the appointment of now Sen. Joaquin Borja (R-Tinian).

Only seven of nine senators have committee chairmanships. Torres as president does not chair any committee, while Sen.

Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) remains behind bars awaiting sentencing related to alleged endangered fruit bat smuggling.

Of the seven senators, two have two committee chairmanships while the other five have one each.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) chairs both the Fiscal Affairs Committee and the Education and Youth Affairs Committee.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian)

got the Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee and the Federal Relations and Independent Agencies Committee.

Senate Vice President Victor Hocog (R-Rota) chairs the Rules and Procedures Committee, which is expected to come up with recommendation to the full Senate on how to deal with Ayuyu's situation, who has been behind bars since last year.

Senate floor leader Ray Yu-

mul (IR-Saipan) is chairman of the Judiciary, Government and Law Committee.

Sen. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan) chairs the Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee.

The Resources, Economic Development and Programs Committee goes to Sen. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian), while the newest member, Borja, chairs the Health and Welfare Committee. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

'Corp. should do GMCA work'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

A federal team of medical experts that exited the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. this week recommends getting rid of the hospital's contract with a collection firm, which it described as "costly."

As part of the hospital's sustainability plan, the team said that getting rid of the contract can be done by September 2014, in anticipation of the completion of revenue cycle automation.

"Return self-pay debt collections to the [corporation's] business office. The contractor currently performing this function is very costly and is not fully integrated with the CHCC business office," states the team's report.

Guam Marianas Collection Agency currently does the billing and collection work for the hospital.

Once the complete revenue cycle is automated, hospital staff should be cross-trained to function as collection agents for these self-pay recipients, and a gradual transition from the current contractor to CHCC staff should ensue, the report states.

The team bared that CHCC has three financial reporting systems in place that are not interfaced: JP Edwards, RPMS (resource and patient management system), and GMCA.

The goal should be to integrate all existing financial reporting systems in order to capture, input, extrapolate, and report financial and revenue data more accurately and comprehensively, the team report states.

The GMCA collection agency contract uses its own financial system and the team said it would be more cost-effective to train the GMCA staff to input

self-pay data into RPMS.

"Long term, CHCC should assume the GMCA contract duties once revenue cycle processes are automated," the report adds.

GMCA only gets paid when it actually collects money for the hospital. GMCA's contract provides a 25-percent fee for what it collects and a 10-percent fee for billing works.

The corporation's board instructed the hospital's management during its last meeting to submit a report assessing the performance of GMCA.

Outpatient pharmacy

The hospital sustainability plan also recommends analyzing a possible conversion of the contracted outpatient pharmacy at the hospital to a corporation-owned and operated one. PHI Pharmacy currently runs the pharmacy at the hospital.

"This has the potential to increase revenue and can assist with providing remote fill prescription services to the outlying CHCC clinics to further maximize revenue," states the team report.

Rehire MIAP position

The plan also recommends rehiring staff for the Medically Indigent Assistance Plan "because it is a great return on investment." With many patients on hemodialysis and other chronic conditions, this will open the door for expansion to other services, the team said.

They also recommended hiring a patient benefits coordinator to advise patients who might qualify for Medicaid, Social Security Disability, SSI, and other assistance programs.

MIAP is a program that assists non-insured indigents by providing discounted rates on their prescription drugs.

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Hartig sworn in as CNMI public defender

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

With his wife and their two children by his side, Douglas Hartig took his oath of office as the CNMI's new public defender in a ceremony on Capital Hill yesterday morning. Hartig, who has been assistant public defender since 1999, now

heads the agency that defends indigent clients facing criminal charges.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos administered the oath for Hartig, three days after the Senate confirmed the latter's nomination by a vote of 8-0.

"I think Governor Inos, the Public Defender's Office and the people of [the CNMI], who deserve a dedicated,

hardworking public defender and I just hope that I'm up for the task and that I can deliver whatever one deserves," Hartig told reporters.

He thanked former governor Benigno R. Fitial for nominating him, the Senate for confirming his nomination, and the new governor "for his continued support and faith in my ability to do this job."

The Public Defender's Office has been making do with limited resources. It does not even have a vehicle of its own and is down to four assistant public defenders from seven a few years back.

Hartig said yesterday that the Public Defender's Office will continue to cut costs, which was initiated by his predecessor Adam Hardwicke.

"...But frankly, at this point, we're so thin and so barebones I think the only thing we can do is hopefully get some more funding for the office, either through grants or through an increased budget from this administration. I think we should have some optimism that

there will be more money coming in, that tourism is apparently on its way up. I know that this administration is making some changes and adjustments on revenue generating [measures] so we just need to be optimistic...and hope for the best," he said.

Hartig's oath-taking was one of the highlights of the governor's news brief-

ing yesterday.

Besides Hartig's wife Heather Kennedy and their children 10-year-old Shea and 8-year-old Conall, also witnessing the ceremony were Hartig's friends and colleagues at the Public Defender's Office, Cabinet members, lawmakers and tourism industry stakeholders.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, administers the oath of office for CNMI Public Defender Douglas Hartig on Capital Hill yesterday. Standing beside Hartig is his wife Heather Kennedy and their children, 10-year-old Shea and 8-year-old Conall.

COURT

From Page 1

OPA chief investigator Juan M. Santos and that Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued the penal summons on Thursday, March 7.

In the summons, sources said, Wiseman ordered Fitial to appear in court on the "first Monday" at 9am to answer the charges.

Fitial was last reported to be in San Diego, California.

When asked about the meaning of "first Monday" in penal summons, veteran lawyer Michael Dotts said it means the first Monday of the month or the first Monday after a person receives the summons.

Dotts said it should be clear in the penal summons.

"After you get back [on the island], you've got to show up in court and say 'I'm here' and the court will schedule a conference for your case and get it on track," Dotts said.

The lawyer said a penal summons is a "kinder process" and is usually for less serious types of offenses.

In related development, a police of-

ficer has alleged that Fitial called him on his cell phone at the time when then attorney general Buckingham was leaving Saipan in August last year and asked about who gave instructions to assist OPA in serving the penal summons to Buckingham.

According to OPA, another police officer disclosed that Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogomoro also issued a directive to him that all DPS personnel should cease any efforts to aid in the service of the summons upon Buckingham.

These allegations are contained in the affidavit OPA chief investigator Santos filed in Superior Court to support the arrest warrants for Police Capt. Jermaine W. Nekaifes, Commonwealth Ports Authority police chief Jordan Kosam, and CPA's Capt. Juan Rebuenog.

Nekaifes, Kosam, and Rebuenog were arrested last Wednesday for their alleged participation in a coordinated effort by multiple persons to shield Buckingham from being served the summons. The three were released upon posting \$500 cash bails.

In his affidavit, Santos said that DPS detective Elias Q. Saralu stated

in an interview that on the evening hours of Aug. 3, 2012, he received a call from Ogomoro, who was allegedly yelling over the phone and asking Saralu who gave the order to assist OPA in serving the summons on Buckingham.

Saralu also allegedly received a phone call from Fitial, who asked him about who gave the instructions to assist OPA.

Santos said that in a separate interview, police officer Juan Mendiola stated that Ogomoro issued a directive to him that all DPS personnel should cease any efforts to aid in the service of the summons upon Buckingham.

An FBI special agent eventually managed to serve Buckingham with the penal summons shortly before the Delta Air Lines flight to Japan took off in the early morning hours of Aug. 4, 2012.

Sources disclosed that separate arrest warrants were issued against Ogomoro and Buckingham.

Ogomoro was last reported to be in Canada for an official trip. Buckingham, who has been declared a fugitive from justice, is believed to be in the U.S. mainland.

asking for a five-year extension of the transition period. This will allow the CNMI to continue to have access to over 12,000 foreign workers to help run the economy.

Tenorio later added that he has also been asked by the governor to work with Northern Marianas College.

"If the [NMC] board wants the governor's office to be of any help... about the upcoming review of the accreditation status... We want to see the college succeed and accredited permanently. It's a priority for the governor," he told reporters.

He also said he looks forward to working with Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) "to try and move the Commonwealth agenda in the right direction."

"There's a compelling need to work with him. We've been confronted with locking horns and confrontation and arguments between the congressman and the previous occupiers of these offices. I think there's a need to stop that. There's no other way to improve the situation...but by working together.

That will be a very important part of our agenda, to be more cooperative... to have one position as much as possible," he said.

The federalization law also replaced Tenorio's former office by a nonvoting delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives. In the first election for the delegate seat, Tenorio lost to Sablan by 357 votes.

Inos also said he and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider continue to review the performance reports that Cabinet members and governor's appointees submitted.

The governor has so far confirmed only a few Cabinet members and appointees that will be staying on. There are others that he wants to meet to discuss their performance reports, including Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Melvin Faisao as of yesterday afternoon.

"We're going to be meeting with all the folks. It's not enough for me to just look at the report and make the decision. I need to give them the benefit of discussing the report," Inos said later.

REFUNDS

From Page 1

tributions within 30 days of submitting a refund application.

These are the first two laws that Inos has signed since becoming governor on Feb. 20. He used to sign bills into law only when he was acting governor during the Fitial administration.

With Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider by his side, Inos signed House Bill 18-2, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 2 into Public Law 18-1, increasing the hotel occupancy tax from 10 percent to 15 percent.

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Nick Nishikawa of Hyatt Regency Saipan and Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Galleria were among the tourism industry stakeholders that witnessed the bill's signing in the governor's conference room, along with members of the 18th Legislature.

House minority leader George Camacho (R-Saipan), author of the bill, said he's glad that the first law signed in the 18th Legislature is a revenue-generating measure that will help the CNMI's main tourism industry.

The increase will mostly go to Marianas Visitors Authority programs to market and promote the CNMI as a tourist destination.

However, even before the new law could be implemented, it is facing amendment. House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said the House is poised to remove one of the changes that the Senate made to the bill that allowed the hiring of full-time employees for Rota and Tinian using 2.5 percent of funds collected, saying em-

ployee hiring can be tackled in a separate legislation.

The new law amends Public Laws 17-29, 17-58 and 17-75 in their entirety, because these prior laws could not be implemented for a host of reasons, including federal law prohibition.

"This measure allows the [MVA] to be more competitive with other destinations in promoting the CNMI through increased marketing efforts and much needed destination enhancements. Increase in tourism activities translates to more job opportunities for our residents, more revenue for our government, and overall prosperity for our Commonwealth," Inos said in his message to the Legislature, whom he thanked for their proactive approach.

Retirement Fund law

Inos also signed House Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz's (IR-Saipan) House Bill 18-12, Senate Draft 1 into Public Law 18-2, to clarify provisions of Public Law 17-82 "necessary to expedite the refunds and prevent any further frustration of the process."

The governor thanked the Legislature for "expeditiously passing this measure to allow members of the Defined Benefit Plan to withdraw their contributions."

"Members have waited patiently and with this amendment, we hope the NMIRF will work cooperatively with members in timely processing their returns," Inos said in his message to the Legislature.

During yesterday's news briefing, Inos said the new law "will now allow for the expeditious processing of payments, up to 50 percent, within 30 days of submission of the application."

INOS

From Page 1

"March 6," the letter was sent only yesterday, press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control, Public Law 110-229, requires the U.S. Labor secretary to consult with the CNMI governor and federal agencies in assessing the islands' current and anticipated labor needs to determine whether an extension of up to five years is necessary.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) wrote Harris on Feb. 14 to ask for a similar five-year extension of the transition period. Sablan also asked that a decision on the matter be made "ideally within the next six months from February, or by August."

"As governor of the CNMI, I am pleased to render my full support for Congressman Sablan's request and ask, too, that you grant this greatly needed extension," Inos told Harris. "In so doing, you will be ensuring the avoidance of what would cause heavy damage to our economy and hurt the citizens and residents who live and work in this far-off island outpost of the United States."

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), chairman of the House Committee on

Foreign and Federal Relations, said last night that the House and Senate will come up with a joint resolution supporting the governor and delegate's request for the extension.

"We are presenting a unified front to the U.S. government, for a better future of the CNMI," Conner said.

The joint resolution, which Conner plans to pre-file before the next House session, will be sent to the U.S. Labor secretary as well.

Under U.S. Public Law 110-229, guest workers under the Commonwealth-only worker or CW program will be eliminated come Dec. 31, 2014.

Inos said this deadline presents grave concerns to the CNMI economy. He said it is "undoubtedly clear that the CNMI economy will still need foreign workers who may not necessarily be qualified to convert to an H1B status before the deadline."

The governor added that the CNMI economy is also largely restrained in its ability to advance because of a great deal of uncertainty.

"Not knowing whether the extension of the transition period will be granted has created this climate of uncertainty within the business community. What is more concerning is that it is not only affecting existing business activity, but also potential investments in the CNMI," Inos told Harris.

PETE

From Page 1

representative to Washington, D.C., former lieutenant governor, former member of the Congress of Micronesia, and a member of the Marianas Political Status Commission, which negotiated the Covenant that established the relationship between the Northern Marianas and the United States. He replaces Dr. John Joyner as senior policy adviser.

One of Tenorio's first tasks is to review a comprehensive Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. sustainability report and recommendation prepared by departing members of the U.S. Commissioned Corps Hospital Assistance Team.

He is also tasked to review the federal immigration transition period, which is supposed to end on Dec. 31, 2014.

Hours after yesterday's interview, the administration confirmed sending the governor's letter to acting U.S. Labor Secretary Seth D. Harris, formally

Regents turn in evaluation of Hart's performance

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The committee tasked to evaluate the performance of Northern Marianas College president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., has received the forms from all seven regents and it will soon schedule a meeting to compile, review, and assess the outcome, according to committee chair Andrew Orsini.

He admitted, however, that the results of the evaluation process will have no direct bearing on the board's decision when it decides on the fate of Hart's contract, which will expire on July 5.

Orsini said the evaluation is only intended to gauge each regent's opinion if Hart has met all the goals and objectives she outlined during her first year of leadership.

"This evaluation has no bearing [on the contract renewal] because it is only aimed at gauging the first year of her leadership at NMC based on the goals and objectives she submitted to the board," said Orsini.

The ad hoc committee was formed in February last year. Its members include regents Frank Rabauliman and William Torres.

Orsini said that Hart's annual

performance evaluation was stipulated in her contract and this specific process will cover the period from October 2011 through October 2012 only. He said the process was delayed last year due to accreditation works at the college, which remains a priority.

According to Orsini, the instruments used to rate Hart's performance is based on established guidelines used to

evaluate past college presidents. These tools, he said, were created in line with accreditation commission standards.

The evaluation tool consists of five to six pages of roughly 17 questions that each regent must rate the president on a scale of 1 to 5. A comment section is also provided for observations and remarks.

The panel is expected to submit to the full board a report on

the evaluation process.

Hart's two-year contract is set to expire in July this year. By policy, she has to receive a notice at least 60 days before this date whether the agreement will be renewed or not. The 60-day period will commence in May.

Hart's contract was one of the issues raised by the accreditation commission in its latest action letter, expressing concern that the board has yet to act whether it will renew or not the president's contract.

2013 MYSN confab calls for presenters

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REPORTER

The Micronesian Youth Services Network board is inviting all interested presenters for the 2013 MYSN 9th Annual Conference next month.

The event is slated for April 18 to 19 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan, with conference delegates scheduled to arrive between April 15 and 16 then take part in island tours on April 17.

This year's theme is "Pursue, Cultivate, and Sustain a Balance."

The 2013 MYSN 9th Annual Conference is committed to showcasing practical, culturally competent ideas, strategies, challenges, and best practice efforts aimed at addressing the unique needs of youth and families in our Micronesian region.

"We invite presenters to

awaken our senses and thoughts by engaging our participants—primarily youth and parents—in thought-provoking discussions aimed at identifying culturally competent solutions to address the many unique and challenging needs for our families in our villages within and throughout our Micronesia region," organizers said.

The call for proposals for presentations, workshops, and exhibits should focus on "pressing issues" such as bullying (personal and cyber), domestic violence, sexual assault/abuse, underage drinking, teen pregnancy, substance abuse (drugs, alcohol, tobacco), child neglect/abuse, suicide/self-inflicted injury, peer pressure, anger/stress/safety management, and overall health & wellness.

Interested presenters are asked to fill out a form that should be submitted no later

than March 22.

To get or submit a presenter form, email johnogonzales@gmail.com or fax (670) 235-7550.

Registration fees for conference participants are set at \$125 for the two-day conference package for non-members/awards banquet; \$100 for the two-day conference package for members/awards banquet; \$100 for a two-day conference package for students/awards banquet; \$70 for one-day conference for non-members; \$50 for one-day conference rate for members and students.

Conference participants must submit a registration form no later than April 12. Registration received after the deadline will be charged an additional \$25.

To register for the conference, email Polly Omechelang at pomechelang@gmail.com, Frances Sablan at francesablan@gmail.com or dyssup@gmail.com.

Ex-convict allegedly tried to set building on fire

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An ex-convict allegedly tried to burn down Friday night an apartment building in Chalan Kanoa where he and five other families are staying.

No one was injured, police said yesterday.

Tenants quickly put out the fire. There was no structural damage to the apartment, which is made of light materials.

The building used to be the barracks for construction workers of Elephant Corp.

Joaquin T. Arriola, 38, was arrested on Saturday for arson and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at \$20,000 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on March 18, 2013, at 9am.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. said that patrol officers responded on Friday at 10:31pm

to a report of a fire at the former Elephant barracks along Tun Joaquin Doi Road.

Blas said that medics and firefighters from Station 1 in Susupe were dispatched to the scene. The fire was reported under control after just five minutes.

Preliminary investigation showed that Arriola, one of the apartment's tenants, used a gas stove in the outside kitchen to light up a cooler and some benches. Other tenants immediately extinguished the burning materials prior to the arrival of firefighters.

Police detective Patrick George stated that, according to a witness, Arriola had been drinking beer with his girlfriend and another woman in the outside kitchen prior to the incident.

Later, witnesses saw a fire in the outside kitchen. Arriola

was allegedly seen throwing wooden benches to the wall and fence of the adjacent building. He was shouting and cussing while throwing the benches. He then left.

One tenant put out the fire, while another called police.

The following day, Saturday, police officers met with Arriola at a store in Chalan Kanoa. After an interview at DPS, he was arrested.

In 2006, Arriola pleaded guilty to assault for the beating of a woman. He was subsequently sentenced to six months in prison, all suspended except for two days.

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Govt lawyers told to explain why they should not be sanctioned

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has ordered Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas and assistant attorney general Charles E. Brasington to explain why they should not be sanctioned for misleading

the court by filing two similar motions in the high court and lower court in connection with a land compensation claim.

"The Commonwealth's omission of its filing of an emergency motion in the Superior Court constitutes an egregious and unacceptable misrepresentation,

especially given the gravity of the writ being appealed and the eleventh-hour nature of the filing of the Commonwealth's motion in this court," associate justice John A. Manglona said

in an order last week.

Describing the omission as severe, Manglona gave San Nicolas and Brasington until Friday, March 15, to respond.

According to court records,

the Superior Court in 2005 awarded Luisa B. Quitugua \$77,137 plus interest for her land compensation claim. In November 2012, the government paid Quitugua just \$10,000.

On March 1, 2013, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman granted Quitugua's request for a writ of execution and ordered the Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii, and First Hawaiian Bank to release and deliver to Quitugua's lawyer, F. Matthew Smith's law firm, the funds they are holding that belong to the CNMI government.

On March 4, 2013 at 3:58pm, the government, through the Office of the Attorney General, filed an emergency motion for stay, requesting that the CNMI Supreme Court stay or suspend the writ of execution issued by the Superior Court on March 1.

The OAG's motion failed to disclose that the government had filed a similar motion in the Superior Court on March 2, 2013, or two days earlier.

In his order to show cause, Manglona said the govern-

ment's motion suggested that no motion had been filed in the Superior Court, stating that "the Commonwealth does not believe that there is adequate time to move the Superior Court to stay its own writ of execution."

Relying on the government's certification, Manglona said the Supreme Court issued a stay of proceedings in the late afternoon of March 4, 2013, which the high court later lifted after finding out that the Superior Court had already acted on the emergency motion filed by the government in the lower court.

"The Commonwealth's misrepresentation in its certification that there was inadequate time to file a motion in the Superior Court was one of the main reasons for our decision to take the extraordinary action of staying Superior Court proceedings without requiring the movant to file first in the Superior Court," the associate justice said.

On March 5, 2013, Wiseman granted the government's motion to stay or temporarily suspend the writ of execution.

OAG moves to dismiss charges vs cop on trial day

On the day of the jury trial yesterday, the Office of the Attorney General moved to dismiss the criminal charges against a police officer accused of punching the father of his common-law wife.

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman granted the OAG's motion to dismiss the charges against police officer Roy Roger Ayuyu Kaipat.

He was facing aggravated assault and battery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace charges.

Wiseman, who expressed disappointment with the prosecution's oral motion to dismiss on the day of trial, is expected to issue a written order today, Tuesday.

Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll told the court that their evidence is most likely not enough to convict Kaipat.

Attorney Colin Thompson is counsel for Kaipat.

Last Feb. 27, Kaipat's common-law wife, police officer Jasmine M. King, pleaded guilty to assault and battery for beating the current wife of her father. She was sentenced to three days in prison with credit of 20 hours of time served.

King reportedly pulled the victim's hair, pulled her to the ground, and wrestled with her on July 11, 2012.

At a preliminary hearing in July 2012, a police officer testified that King pushed and repeatedly punched the victim at a house in Dandan.

When King's father tried to stop King, Kaipat allegedly punched the father then fled the scene. Police said the father was taken to the hospital due to a dislocated left shoulder. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

2013 tax filing season begins

The Department of Finance Division of Revenue and Taxation has begun the 2013 filing season.

With the opening of the tax filing season, the self-service counter at the Division of Revenue and Taxation on Saipan and Rota is now available to assist qualifying taxpayers. The self-service counter is available only to those taxpayers with CNMI source income only and for simple tax returns and income only from wages, minimal interest income, with filing status as single or married filing jointly, and with no dependents to claim and are taxpayers that normally can use Form 1040EZ-CM.

For more information on who can use the self-service filing, visit www.cnmidof.net. There is a fee for this service, due at the time of service.

All forms are available online and paper forms of the Form 1040EZ-CM, 1040A-CM and 1040CM will be available sometime within the next week.

DRT will begin data entry processing in March as taxpayers file their returns and by mid-July will begin the processing of refund/rebate checks, as well as Additional Child Tax Credit refund checks.

The Department of Finance anticipates the initial distribution date for the first batch of refunds to be in early August.

"In order to expedite re-

lease of refunds and rebates, we would like to encourage all filers to review their returns prior to filing to ensure completeness and accuracy," said Finance Secretary Larissa Larson in a statement yesterday.

Common errors that will delay the processing of personal income tax refunds or rebate check are as follows:

1. Incorrect or missing name and/or social security numbers;
2. Incorrect filing status;
3. Incomplete wage and salary or income and withhold tax information;
4. Failure to report information for additional Form W-2CM or Form 1099.

For taxpayers that received Form 1098-T or paid higher education expenses, you may be eligible for a tax credit or deduction. Refer to IRS Publication 970 (Higher Education) on the IRS website www.irs.gov.

If you are still having issues with a prior year tax return, call Taxpayer Assistance Section 664-1040/1000. Correction of any issues from prior tax years will prevent delays in release of 2012 rebates and/or refunds. To assist in the identification of these issues, we would like to ask that you bring copies of your tax records to expedite the resolution of any and all outstanding issues. *(Department of Finance)*

Lecture on ancient history on Saturday



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Drs. Mike Carson and Hsiao-chun Hung of the Australian National University at the House of Taga site.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council invites the public to a presentation titled "Archaeological discoveries of earliest habitation sites in the Mariana Islands" that will be held at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater on Saturday evening, March 16, beginning at 6pm.

This presentation will be given by visiting archaeologists Drs. Mike Carson and Hsiao-chun Hung of the Australian National University.

Their presentation will explore a number of questions associated with the initial settlement of the Mariana Islands and other locations in the remote Pacific.

Why did people come? When did it happen? What were the environmental and social circumstances of this unprecedented event in human history?

Carson and Hung are currently working on their second season of archaeological research at the House of Taga Archaeological Site on Tinian.

Their initial excavations at the site in 2011 recovered artifacts and features associated with the initial settlement of the islands believed to date to approximately 3500 BC.

During their presentation, Carson and Hung will summarize the important findings from their current work at this site.

This free presentation is part of the council's ongoing community lecture series that provides the public with information on a wide range of humanities topics by local, regional and international scholars.

For more information, contact council staff at 235-4785. *(Humanities Council)*

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP13-DCCA/CCDF-077

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 08, 2013

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES
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CHILD CARE PROVIDERS"**

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **FEBRUARY 19, 2013** AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **MARCH 21, 2013 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME**, AT THE MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER, SUSUPE.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

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1st General Membership Meeting FY 2013
March 14, 2013 at 9:00am.-2:00pm
Seaside Hall, Kanoa Resort

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
 - Announcement: CNMI Office of the Public Auditor
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Adoption of Agenda**
- IV. Review and adoption of December 06, 2012 Minutes**
- V. Reports**
 - OVR Director
 - SILC Chairman
 - CIL Director
- VI. Old Business**
 - Review membership composition
 - Review/Plan for the 2014-2016 SPIL (State Plan for Independent Living)
 - Public Forum
- VII. New Business**
 - 2013 National Council on Independent Living Conference
 - 2014 SILC Congress Highlight
- VIII. Consumer Forum**
- IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous**
- X. Adjournment**

Sharafot Ali Mollah
P.O. Box 3687
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.:
(670) 287-8219

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF
THE NORTHERN MARIANA
ISLANDS**

In The Matter Of The Adoption Of: S.A.M. (D.O.B. 4/5/2011) Minor Child, By: Sharafot Ali Mollah Petitioner	FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0104 NOTICE OF HEARING
---	--

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on April 01, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 8th day of March, 2013.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF JERICA RENEE MULLICAN BERKI and CYPRIANO KAIPAT BERKI JR., Minor Children. DAWN RENEE ALDAN MULLICAN, Petitioner.	FCD GU Civil Action No. 13-0092 NOTICE OF HEARING
---	--

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Dawn Renee A. Mullican, has petitioned the above Court to appoint her as the guardian of the person, ad litem and estate of Jerica Renee M. Berki and Cypriano Kaipat Berki Jr., minor children.

The hearing on this petition has been set before the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the 4th day of April, 2013 at 10:30 am, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard.

Any person who has objection to the petition may file his or her objection with the Superior Court at any time before the hearing, or may appear at the time set for hearing to present such objection or interest in the above-captioned matter.

SO ORDERED this 8th day of March, 2013.

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

Saipan chamber readies work with 18th Legislature

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce plans to meet with CNMI legislative leaders to discuss recently proposed legislation, potential initiatives, and the rebuilding of a CNMI economy that's been in a downward trend for over a decade. A beginning breakfast meeting is in the works.

Despite some recent good news concerning potential investment in the CNMI, Chamber president Alex Sablan stressed the need to be realistic about laws and regulations that would unintentionally harm what many see as a slight glimmer of hope surfacing with that new investment.

"The CNMI Legislature and administration still need to focus on government spending as the No. 1 offender to fiscal responsibility, and although we have good reason to expect such with the new governor and the 18th Legislature, there are still some messages coming from the Hill that indicate plans that are not in everyone's best interests," Sablan said.

The Chamber has received requests for comments on legislation. The Chamber sees bills with merit being proposed, but others may require further deliberation.

Sablan said: "For instance, there's always going to be talk about generating revenue. This always ends up being increased taxation. The Chamber will always call for investment incentive as a way to build the

economy, create new jobs, and increase government revenue. Throwing good money after bad just doesn't work."

Sablan continued, "Rep. Trenton Connor has introduced a bill that calls for environmental impact fees to be collected in the second senatorial district that won't tax business, adds additional revenue to a government in need, and may create a few jobs in the process. We think this concept has more promise, actually, on Saipan. Just like the new occupancy tax to fund marketing on tourism, those impact fees would be borne by visitors using our roads, beaches, and waters. This is much more desirable than taxing businesses to fund maintenance of our tourist destinations."

Two recent public announcements are concerns to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

"One is another round of proposed tax amnesty for those in violation of CNMI Revenue and Tax compliance laws. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has never agreed to the implementation of a tax amnesty that tolerates "bad business behavior." Just because there may have been some very limited success in the past, that doesn't necessarily translate to letting violators off the hook again. It sends a bad message to our law abiding business owners, and it sets a dangerous precedent. The



Sablan

government also loses revenue it would collect via fines and interest. Just enforce existing tax and revenue laws. The idea that amnesty is more cost effective than writing off bad debts

ignores the fact that government should be apprehending violators, prosecuting them, seizing assets and collecting money owed the government. The fringe benefit is that people will start paying their taxes like they should. The free ride days are over, and government should act accordingly," according to Sablan.

A second law being considered is one where rebates to individuals and corporations would be reduced by 20 per-

cent, as a means to lengthen retirement benefits being paid to former government employees, as well as lengthening the life of the NMI Retirement Fund.

Sablan said, "We are cognizant of how much that money in circulation means to our local economy and the people that spend that money in our businesses. But, realistically, to decrease future investment potential is not worth the cost. The practical approach, as suggested by the authors, is to reduce retirement benefits during a time when the government's fiscal state may improve, not taxing the innocent. We collectively know what got ourselves into this mess, but we shouldn't have the innocent majority of taxpayers pay again for laws passed to correct errors made

in the past. Again, throwing good money may not be in the best interest to all."

Sablan concluded, "Both these measures are more political than practical approaches to

real economic realities. We want to meet with the Legislature and the administration to offer what we see as prudent alternatives to the government's need to find revenue." (SCC)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy fifth birthday to our little princess, Julienne Claire Bella! You are the most beautiful gift anyone has ever been gifted with. May beauty and happiness surround you today and always! Happy birthday to the best daughter in the whole wide world! Greetings come from Mama, Papa, and Julia Clarisse.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CRIME OF THE WEEK

Robbery at San Jose bar

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for information on a robbery incident that occurred at the Flame Tree Bar located in the village of San Jose.

On Saturday, March 2, 2013, at approximately 1am, the victim, a Chinese female age 38, was at the bar when the suspect, described as possibly local, male, fair skinned, tall, skinny, wearing a dark shirt, and a pair of short pants, entered the establishment.

The suspect grabbed the victim's purse, which was hanging over her shoulder, and pulled it away, breaking the purse strap. The suspect ran out of the bar

and south into the village. The victim gave chase but lost track of the suspect by the San Jose Motel.

The items stolen include an iPhone 5 cell phone, a pair of Dior sunglasses, the victim's CNMI drivers license, immigration card, and about \$150 cash. The victim was not injured in the incident.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 or use its website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. (Crime Stoppers)

UOG celebrates 45th Charter Day

The University of Guam will be celebrating its 45th Charter Day today, March 12, 2013, from 9am to 5pm.

UOG Charter Day showcases a multitude of activities and events including campus tours, the Annual College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Research Conference, which features over 60 different presentations, the Chamoru Language Competition, agricultural displays, ROTC tactical demonstrations, Chemistry Titration High School Competition, the Isla Center for

the Arts exhibit *Shortcuts: The Art of Jeff Harris*, live music, food, games, and more.

Plus for the first time ever, students, UOG employees, and alumni will be competing against each other in several events including badminton, ping-pong, pie eating, horse-shoes, dodgeball, and more. The competition begins at 2pm.

For details and a list of events, visit www.uog.edu/charterday or visit the UOG Facebook page at www.facebook.com/universityofguam. (UOG)

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Island Snapshots



NEW JUSTICE

Newly sworn in Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry B. Inos, right, signs his appointment letter while Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, and other family members look on, minutes after the governor administered the oath of office for the former associate judge on Capital Hill Friday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Newly sworn in Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry B. Inos is flanked by Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, Associate Justice John A. Manglona, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, Associate Judge Joe Camacho, Associate Judge David Wiseman, Associate Judge Ken Govendo, and family members.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



SPELLING MASTERS

The CNMI Public School System's participants in the 41st Annual Scripps Spelling Bee include, from left to right, Ezekiel Joshua Rafanan from Admiral Hopwood Jr. High School; Genzo Gonzales of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School; Holly Sara Liban of San Vicente Elementary School; Samantha Sandbergen of Tinian Elementary School; and Jacob T. Teregeyo of Dandan Elementary School. Not in photo are Putra Sani of Oleai Elementary School; and Michelle D. Bermudes of William S. Reyes Elementary School. The competition was held Saturday in Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MOCK TRIAL LUMINARIES

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Marianas Baptist Academy bags this year's silver award in the CNMI High School Mock Trial Competition and was the recipient of this year's Supreme Court Professionalism Award during Friday night's awarding ceremonies. Mount Carmel School Knights once again ruled the competition and earned the slot to represent the Commonwealth at the nationals.



The third best team honor goes to Dr. Rita Hocog Inos High School team.

MONETH G. DEPOSA



MOCK TRIAL AWARDEES

Mount Carmel School mock trial team member Cathryn Javier and mentor and coach Galvin Deleon Guerrero have their picture taken after the awarding rites Friday at Fiesta Resort & Spa. Javier, 14, was named the competition's Best Prosecuting Attorney.

MONETH G. DEPOSA



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Marianas High School mock trial member Aurora David bagged this year's Best Defense Attorney award after the two-day rounds of the competition last week.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Marianas Baptist Academy team member Alina Ishikawa is all smiles after receiving the prestigious Best Prosecution Witness award last Friday night. Ishikawa's team finished first runner-up and was named recipient of the Supreme Court Professionalism Award.

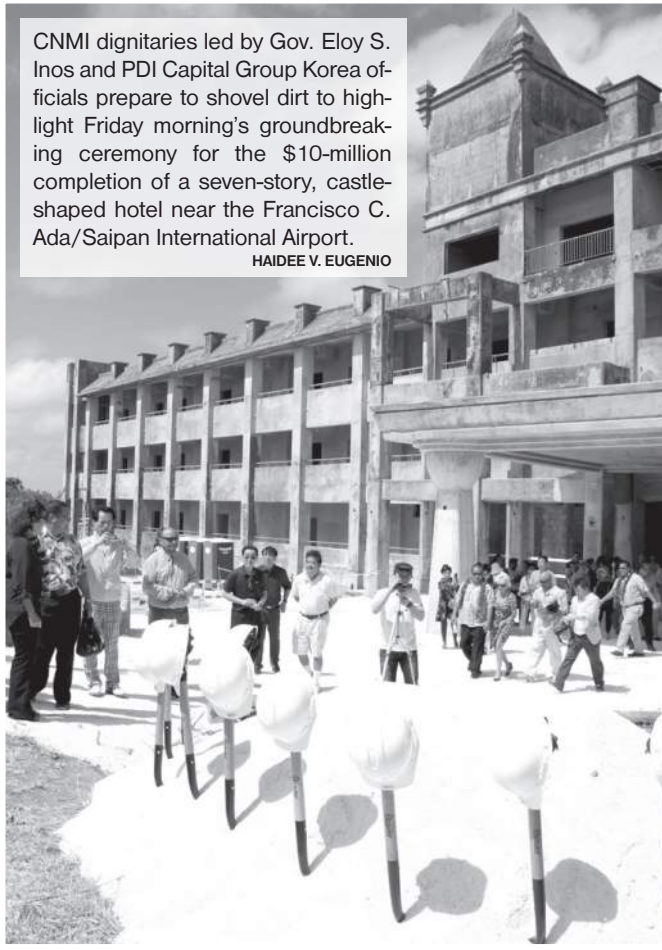


MONETH G. DEPOSA

Kadi Camacho of Marianas High School shows his plaque after being named the competition's Best Defense Witness.

CNMI dignitaries led by Gov. Eloy S. Inos and PDI Capital Group Korea officials prepare to shovel dirt to highlight Friday morning's groundbreaking ceremony for the \$10-million completion of a seven-story, castle-shaped hotel near the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



GROUNDBREAKING RITES

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, fourth from right, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, fourth from left, and other CNMI dignitaries join PDI Capital Group Korea's board chair Sung Jin Lee and chief executive officer Daniel Chang in shoveling dirt during Friday's groundbreaking ceremony for PDI Capital Group Korea's \$10-million project to complete the construction of a long-abandoned, castle-shaped hotel across the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A MCDONALD'S MILESTONE



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Marcia and Joe Ayuyu slice the cake at McDonald's Saipan 20th Anniversary Appreciation Banquet on Saturday night at the Royal Taga Ballroom of Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

A guest listens to the speeches at the groundbreaking ceremony for a \$10-million development of Forest Hill Hotel, an artist rendition of which is shown here.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CNMI officials led by Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider are joined by PDI Capital Group Korea officials for a group photo Friday in front of the structure that will be turned into a \$10-million Forest Hill Hotel by mid-2014.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Gov. Eloy S. Inos, right, delivers his remarks at the groundbreaking ceremony for a \$10-million hotel near the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Friday morning. To be called the Forest Hill Hotel, the project includes completing the long-abandoned, unfinished structure that is shaped like a castle.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Above, Joe Ayuyu, president and owner of McDonald's Saipan, is joined by wife Marcia on stage as he delivered his remarks at the company's 20th Anniversary Appreciation Banquet last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

McDonald's Saipan owner and president Joe Ayuyu shakes hands with American Red Cross - NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, while Marcia Ayuyu looks on after presenting a \$1,000 donation during the company's 20th Anniversary Appreciation Banquet on March 9.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Internet piracy getting worse

The following editorial appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer on Tuesday, March 5:

The new Copyright Alert System that went into effect last week is a weak response to the rampant Internet theft of music, films, games, and television programs. But it's better than doing nothing to combat the wrongheaded assertion that intellectual property should be free to anyone who can grab it.

Artists deserve to be compensated for their efforts, and so should the companies that take risks to promote and distribute their work. Stealing songs and movies to pass among friends or to sell in a black market robs the originators of their incomes.

Online file-swapping has so damaged the music industry that this is the first time since 1999 that it has seen a tiny increase in revenue. More than a decade ago, the industry shut down Napster's free file-sharing service and created inexpensive and easily downloaded music files. But it hasn't fully solved the theft problem.

In fact, the Irdeto security firm told the *Wall Street Journal* that the 5.4 billion instances of pirated content that it detected online in 2009 mushroomed to 14 billion last year. Independent film distributor Kathy Wolfe said she lost more than \$3 million in 2012 as a result of stolen content.

Under the new alert system, the five largest Internet service providers—Comcast, Verizon, AT&T, Cablevision, and Time Warner Cable—will search peer-to-peer sharing websites to determine if copyrighted material is being used without permission. Other, smaller ISPs are expected to join in. When someone illegally sharing a song or movie is found, he will be issued a series of six warnings aimed at stopping him.

The Center for Copyright Infringement, which is coordinating the new system, says service providers won't monitor users' Internet traffic, which should allay fears about an invasion of privacy.

The warnings start with mild e-mail alerts that assume the violator may not know that what he is doing amounts to theft. If subsequent notices are ignored, a provider can slow down the violator's Internet service for 48 hours. There are no repercussions after that, although it's possible that information provided by the alert system could be used to file lawsuits against content thieves.

The alert system is aimed at educating, rather than punishing, consumers. But the light approach may prove too lenient to be effective. The threat of litigation might discourage massive pirating by large-scale operations. But slowing down a 14-year-old's Internet speed for two days may not be enough to deter him from downloading first-run movies and music on his laptop to share with his friends.

It may be that the real value of the alert system will be to provide enough information to come up with an even better idea to stop theft. Internet pirates keep inventing ways around security systems. Their victims have to figure out how to stay a step ahead.

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What I learned at summer camp

When I was a boy of 9, my parents sent me to a YMCA camp, Camp Cory. It was, and still remains, situated along the eastern side of Keuka Lake, one of the Finger Lakes in upstate New York.

Founded in 1921, Camp Cory was set along the shore and under a canopy of tall shade trees. It was rustic and comfortable. There were brown wooden cabins, with plywood floors and bunk beds. There was a spacious wooden boathouse, which connected to the swimming docks by a long ramp. Throughout the camp were athletic fields, campfire circles surrounded by logs to sit on, and brightly-colored Indian totem poles. There was a deep sense of Indian lore, because this part of New York State had been the home of many tribes: the Seneca, the Iroquois, and the Mohawk.

It cost my parents \$35 to send me for two weeks each summer. It was one of the best experiences of my life. In addition to having fun with other boys, I learned to swim, to paddle a canoe, to make a belt out of leather pieces, and to get along with other kids.

The spacious dining hall was decorated with plaques in the form of arrowheads, one for each year, going back through the decades. There was a sense of history and tradition at the camp, and we were respectful of it.

After lunch and dinner, we would remain seated at our tables and sing songs for 20 minutes. A large, roly-poly man named Tom Avery would stand on a table in the front of the dining hall and lead us all in song. We sang all sorts of songs: "There was an old woman who swallowed a fly," "I love to go a-wandering, along the mountain track," "Nothin' could be finer than to be in Carolina..." Tom waved his arms and we all sang our heads off.

Sometimes, in the evenings we would return to the dining hall for a special event. One evening in particular remains in my memory today.

Our visitor was a full-blooded Mohawk Indian chief, who arrived in ceremonial dress: buckskin jacket with fringe and beads, moccasins, and a large feathered headdress. We were very impressed just looking at him.

In low tones, he began by telling us what the Indians believed: that the earth, the trees, the waters, all were sacred and must be respected. So too the birds, the animals, the fish, and every other living creature.

He then began to talk about humans and the problems they often create for themselves, and others. We all nodded in agreement.

Then the Indian chief took out a little wooden board, upon which

By RUSS MASON

Special to the Saipan Tribune

For the better part of a decade, Russ Mason wrote for a medical journal, *Alternative & Complementary Therapies*. His principal assignment was to interview a physician or other health care practitioner about new and important treatments, as well as diet and nutrition. Prior to that, he worked at NBC in New York for 16 years, often as a writer for their television programs.



were five candles: yellow, red, brown, black, white. These candles represented the various races in the world. The yellow candle signified the Asian peoples; the red, the Indian peoples; the brown, the Indian and Middle-Eastern peoples, the black, the African and sub-tropical peoples; the white, the Caucasian peoples.

He then lit the candles, one by one. He said, "Look at these candles, my young braves. Do you see that one candle does not burn more brightly than the others? They all give off the same amount of light. Even though each is different, they are all the same." He then added, "If you are ever tempted to think that you are somehow superior to another person, or another race, remember these candles."

That lesson has stuck with me since that evening long ago. And I often think how much better our world would be if everyone could have witnessed the Indian chief and heard what he said.

I am writing this now because there are still people in the world who think that they are better

than others. Yes, there are people who are more attractive, or have more money, or friends, but that does not make them better. These qualities make them different, but not better.

Since coming to Saipan, I have frequently heard the expression, "Good Heart." More than any other human quality, a good heart is what matters most, especially here and now. All of the other things—money, friends, desirability—are external to the person. They are nice things to have, but they won't last forever. A good heart, however, will last you to the end of your days, because a good heart will lead to good deeds.

If you have a good heart, it means that you care about others.

See CAMP on Next Page



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Camp Cory is situated along the eastern side of Keuka Lake, one of the Finger Lakes in upstate New York.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ma-arrestan ‘nos kuantos polisia

Arrestau ‘nos kuantos polisia pot mañanau gi estotbun mana’en otdin kotte i ginen attorney general gi plasankon aire guine gi alacha. Lau ti felis ayu na otdin sa’ mana’e enfin i ginen AG ni mafanana’an penal summons. Masita i prohibu para u presentan maisague’ gi kotte lau ma’pos.

I man-arrestau siha na polisia buente mapopo’lu na taya’ siña pumacha siha sa’ i otdin (maseha lache yan ti ligat) mafattu ginen iya hululu’—gobietnu. Mañgontentu na i otdin ni unu siña chumanda sa’ ginen i mas ma’gas. Na ti manhula’ lokue’ i gobietnu para u tatiye i lai taimanu siha mismu kumu offisiat lai?

Dispues man-ma’estudia este siha na polisia haf’ responsablidad niha gi ma-enfuetsas lai. Haf’ na ni unu kumuestiona kau propiu i otdin? Gi hilu’ este na kadenan linache, debi i mana’e otdin deste ginen gobietnu yan ma’gas polisia u fan ma-aresta sa’ tat ti sumanau gi inisaguen lai ni mafanana’an “obstruction of justice”, estotbu gi machoguen’ operasion justisia.

Gi este na mattiru, man-offrese ginen gobietnu ayudon gaston abugau para i man-arrestau na polisia ni umosge i lache na tinago’ña? Kau u responsable sumuda’e cho’chu’ niha yangin gi uttimu besis mana’ fan basta gi offisiun polisia?

Che’chu’ tailaye i hasñigune si BRFitail otdin ni tailaye yan lache kontra i man-arrestau na polisia siha. Lastima sa’ malefa ni tinagu’ i Saina: cha’mu chechegue gi otu haf’ tiyamu machogue giya hagu mismu.

Malag manu i sensian hinimide yan proteksion polisia siha ni

CAMP

From Page 10

You are not misled by externals, such as skin color or accent, but you see the heart of another; and, like the Indian chief, you know that we are all equal. However, many think only of themselves and their own needs. As a result, life becomes difficult. They find good reasons not to help others. They suffer, but do not know the cause of their suffering.

Long ago, there was a popular play titled *Everyman*. It was about a man named Everyman, who was unexpectedly summoned by Death. Death tells Everyman that his time has come, that he must die and face judgment. Everyman exclaims, “You come when I was least expecting you!” Death replies, “Yes, many say that.”

Everyman begs for time and asks Death if he can take a companion along with him. Death replies, “Yes, if you can find someone who will go with you.”

Everyman first goes to his Kindred (relatives), but they don’t want to go. Everyman asks Material Goods, and they also say no; Fellowship also declines the invitation to accompany Everyman and Death.

By the end of the play, all have refused to accompany Everyman, except for Good Deeds. Only Good Deeds has agreed to accompany Everyman; and, together they ascend into heaven and are met by an Angel.

The truths in the play are simple and obvious, and yet we still live in a world where these truths are either unknown or have been forgotten. We are part of the same human family, and we have more in common than we have differences.

In fact, we share more than you might imagine. Regardless if one is Samoan, Chinese, Irish, or Russian, we all enjoy food, a wonderful sleep, a great kiss, laughing at a joke, singing with others, dancing, having fun, or just sitting quietly. The differences between us are insignificant.

It takes a shift in perspective to see this; but, once accomplished, it is a hallmark of maturity. Truly mature people have developed a spiritual insight. The immature among us continue to only think of their own needs, and that if someone is different, then they must be feared, or viewed with suspicion.

Camp Cory was named after Lt. H. Lawrence Cory, an American WWI soldier who was killed in action. Lieutenant Cory was an inspiration to his fellow soldiers and his motto was, “Help the other fellow.” It was in this spirit that the camp was founded and bears his name today.

In casting my mind back to those days long ago, singing in the dining hall with other boys, I often wish we could do that here. I wish we could fill American Park with hundreds of people, and just sing together. Chamorro, Carolinian, Filipino, American, Singaporean, Chinese—everybody raising their voices together in song.

I can’t imagine anything more fun or wonderful.

ha yamag futuron niha? Lau faye yan chatgon na santulon mina parake-gue’ haf’ siniseden pumalu kumu siña ha tamen ñaihongue’ masakahilu yan matiteg pañales.

Siempre u fattu este na sinisede gi kotte. Ayu na pisu parehu aplikable todú lai de hemunos kau ginen gobietnu hau. Parehu aplikasion lai sa’ gobietnamentun lai iya Marianas.

■ ■ ■

Lastima i appottunidad

Lastima appottunidad para unna’ guaha adelantau na kinalmten ha’anen publiku. Kontodu guahu mismu ni gumachuñe-gue’ siete años malofan gi katsadan publiku mampos hana’ matmanyu’ i dañikulu na tinilaika gi mañaña.

I mas umestotbayu’ i taya’ planu para u aregla ha’anen publiku. Ha sotta para umafondu buente kau pot guaha hagas piniloña para guiya yan familiaña. Lau mañgge señor i promesamu sumuhon esta i yanu na plaset i linala’ publiku?

Lau dispues hagas hu siente na fafayimu chatche’chu’ siha na malabida sa’ oppan mampos na sumen makat para un’ gu’ot gi hilu sinsiyu na eskalera finu’ lahe. Hu li’e na kabron yan tramposau mañamu. Ayu mina’ guahu finenina huyung dispues de kuattru años. Ti listiyu’ humasñigune i publiku che’chu’ linache.

Gi todú pinetsige lokue’ tat banidosu ti tumatke fondiyosña. Sumen magahet este na finu’ man-amku’ kontodu i masusede guine gi alacha. Lastima!

■ ■ ■

Hi hilu’ pinasensia

Maseha seriosamente man-iridau hit ginen malabidan ginen gobietnu as BRFitail, mauleg ta atetuye fuma’ appottunidad areglu siha gi tafafana’ pa’gu. Muña hit sumede na u tampe hit i diskuiduña. Mientras mas makat i asunto mas propiu i fitme na pinasensia para ta aregla halom gima’ta.

Huñgan, bula man-inaminasa (6,000 mantai che’chu’) mientras kada familia ha guadog papa’ fondun siniñoña para u la estira pina-

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Food for thought

At first, I kind of doubted supporting longtime nonresident workers to be allowed to stay. But as time goes by, I started questioning myself. My father was Korean and my mother was half-Korean and Chamorro. I’m sure that there are many others with the blood of Filipinos, Japanese, Koreans, Yapese, Paluans, Pohnpeians, and more. And we are all U.S. citizens and are residents of the CNMI. Our ancestors came here from the Philippines, Yap, Palau, Pohnpei, Korea, and maybe Spain and we’re welcome to live here as residents.

I grew up being alienated by many and it hurts. Suppose they tell me to go back to Korea now, you know how that would feel? Besides being alienated and then all of a sudden being kicked out—does anyone know how hard it is to be in this situation? Do any of you know how those children who were born and raised as Saipan, Tinian, and Rota citizens would feel if they are told to go back to their parents’ place of origin now? Do you know that we put up with many abuses just to be included, because we have no other solutions that we know of in order to live in circumstances beyond our control?

Yes, as human being we move to find a better place to live. And when we do find it, we work hard to improve it. Knowing that you’re not going to be included in a territory you were helping to build for so long will make you feel defensive and worry about your well-being, if you are to be deported to a place that you have no idea about. Treating others as your friend or family and then all of a sudden they treat you as an enemy is an unjust behavior for those who pay the price.

I like hiring the services of an electrician, mason, construction workers, farmers, and those skilled workers. Even eating different menus in the restaurant. Many of these people are nice enough to work for me for smaller wages. They are even patient enough to wait for their paycheck when ever I have financial difficulties. Can you imagine if we send home those we know or who have been working for us for so long and is affordable and they are taken away from you?

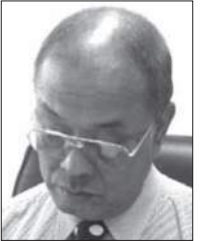
If they were to be sent home now, I could just imagine the impact it will cost me. How much taxes are we going to lose from employees’ wages, how many business will shut down, how many of us will resign due to having no babysitter, and maybe more.

Can you imagine if they send home family members who are

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



sensian niha. Tatnai sisida este na pinadese lau taya i hagas gobietnu ha prekura gi tiempoña ke ginilusunen mantikan steak, mahoñgañg yan guaguan na binu. Kulan mohon mafañagu-gue’ yan boteyan binu gi pachotña. Dios mihu!

Yangin i malabida gi didog na aminosun linala’ publiku ti mahasñgon, ta lagnos kanaita ya tapan a’dispensa sa’ mantautau hit todus. Lau i bidan “Nignu” Fitail inipus na che’chu tai lala’et na kabron yan tramposau na kapitan batku. Sotta ya guiya u satban yan asi’in maisague’.

Guaha man-sañgan na i dinage siña dos biahe ha liliku’e i tanu’ antes de u gotde hilun sapatosaña i magahet. Lau haf’ minapotña para un’ unestu giya hagu mismu? Gi todo dinagi-mu mafattu tatte ayu na kuestion: kau ennau finana’ guen mañaina-mu? Na ti dakun pisun tutuhon un’ saki?

■ ■ ■

I che’chu’ traision ‘sino tinailaye gi otu siempre u birague’ tatte gi man-isague. Ridondu i tanu’ ya siempre u fattu tatte giya hagu taimanu ‘nai un’ tradute i prohibu-mu.

Haf’ problemaña i tatatte? Fan hoñgge na mas fotte ke mefe’na. Mampos ha estotbayu’ i masusede lau ni unu sumoyu’gue’ fumaposgue lache siha na chalan gi dinagen man-te’ug siha kontra ha’anen publiku. Un’ dia siempre ta huchum este na pahina gi chatpagu na leblun Marianas.

married to our children? There are a lot out there I know who have been married for a long time and still haven’t petitioned their spouse due to financial hardship.

Yes there many factors in making this decision of whom do we want to stay and whom do we want to send away. That’s why I think it’s time that the CNMI forms a petition office or some kind of citizenship affairs office for these long-time nonresidents and let us start selecting who we shall petition to stay and be granted residency. We cannot say how many and who without us selecting who will be the best candidates to petition. Let each island select who they want to petition and who they want to let go. Many of them are friends, family, and a lot are needed for us to be able to transition to being independent from CW.

So, think about it. Are sure that we don’t need their help? Are you aware that there is a possibility of losing a huge amount of generated revenue from employees’ wages? Are you aware that if they become residents, in return we might get a huge support in generating revenue and more support in workforce transitioning? Are you aware of the positive impact to education support, attitude, employment, ideas, less liability fees, immigrations fees (imagine saving money from immigration processing fees, how much money businesses can save and how much taxes we can collect) and more voices for a better government and better living?

Yes, there are some challenges such as many questionable behaviors, illegal actions, and maybe some misunderstanding regarding labor and immigrations issues. But in looking back at our family history and those who are members of the U.S. Congress, our ancestors are all from other places looking for a better place to live too. I’m pretty sure they will understand us if we petition for these long-time nonresidents, in defending our economic assets.






But believe me, nothing is ever perfect or bad until you try it. So, for the sake of revenues, friends, skilled workers, and investors, let us help and join hands in asking our leaders to save them by petitioning those that we need as family, workforce transitioning, and the collection of revenue.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 79

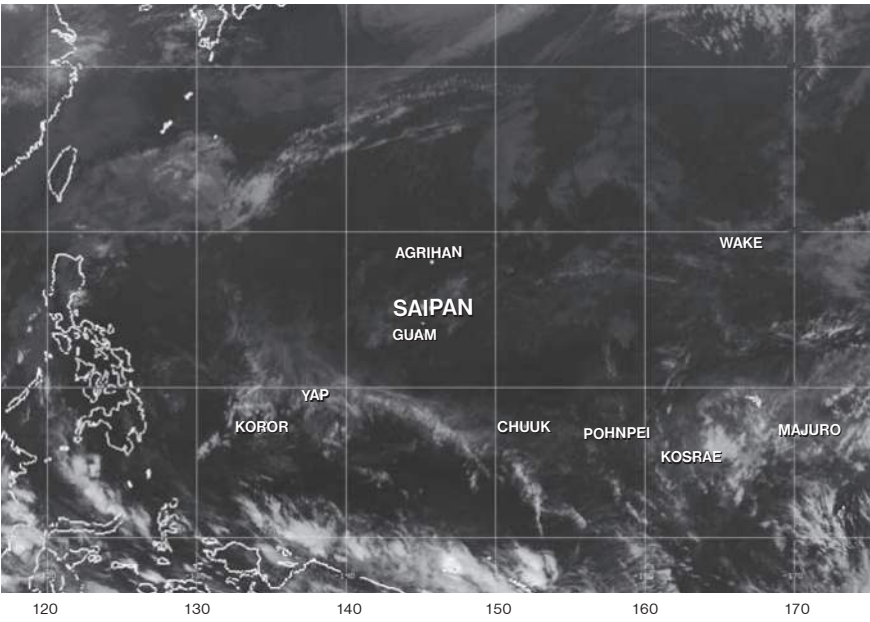
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 63
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 49 ▼ 30
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 68
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 69
London	Windy	▲ 37 ▼ 32
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 55
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 72
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 82 ▼ 62
New York	Rain	▲ 52 ▼ 37
Osaka	Showers	▲ 65 ▼ 41
Paris	Ice	▲ 37 ▼ 27
Pusan	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 39
Rome	Rain	▲ 56 ▼ 49
Salem	Showers	▲ 63 ▼ 49
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 51
Seoul	Showers	▲ 46 ▼ 31
Tokyo	Windy	▲ 69 ▼ 44
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 40

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:00 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	
9:07 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
3:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet	
9:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from 2N130E to EQ148E. Scattered showers are southwest of Yap and near Koror south of a line from 11N131E to 4N147E to 2N150E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers across the Marshall Islands within 100 miles of a line from 7N172E to 5N178E. A weak surface trough extending northward from EQ168E to 9N167E is producing scattered showers south of Kosrae and Pohnpei to south of Kwajalein within 80 miles of a line from EQ168E to 4N167E to 7N168E. A shear line stretches southwestward from 20N180 to near Wake Island at 19N167E across the Mariana Islands to end near 10N135E. Scattered showers are between 20N and 25N from 163E to 180E. Some clouds and patchy showers are along and up to 125 miles northwest of the shear line from 165E to 135E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:27 AM	6:27 PM
Wednesday	6:26 AM	6:27 PM
Thursday	6:26 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:21 AM	6:48 PM
Wednesday	7:03 AM	7:40 PM
Thursday	7:45 AM	8:32 PM
Friday	8:28 AM	9:24 PM
Saturday	9:12 AM	10:14 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 8, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:45am Daily DL285 6:30am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:25pm Daily	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5062 3:35am 4:10am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:55am 11:30am 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 1, 5 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:00am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 8:50pm 2:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU7108 3:50am 7:40am 1, 5	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU7107 7:40pm 2:50am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO) XF1734 11:55am 5:10pm 5	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:35am 9:55am 6 via GUM UA5062/191 4:40am 9:55am 3 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:15pm 2, 4, 5, 7 via NRT DL287/173 6:00am 10:35pm 1, 3, 6 via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 8:45pm Daily via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:45pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 9:45pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 7:55am 1:15am+1 2, 4, 7 via NRT DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5072 10:15pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-TINIAN FRE 101 6:45 6:55 Daily FRE 103 7:30 7:40 Daily FRE 105 8:00 8:10 Daily FRE 107 8:40 8:50 Daily FRE 109 9:10 9:20 Daily FRE 111 10:45 10:55 Daily	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 10:35pm 7:55am+1 1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
				FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Sandy-damaged homes hit market at bargain prices

LONG BEACH, N.Y. (AP)—It sounds like the premise for a new reality TV series: “Hurricane House”—people scouring water-side communities looking to buy homes damaged by Superstorm Sandy at a deep discount.

While there are bargains out there, ranging from 10 percent off pre-storm prices for upscale homes on New York’s Long Island and the Jersey Shore to as much as 60 percent off modest bungalows Staten Island and Queens, it’s still very much a game of buyer beware.

Not only are buyers on the hook for repairs and in some cases total rebuilds, they’re also wading into a host of potentially expensive uncertainties about new flood maps and future insurance rates, zoning changes and updated building codes.

“It’s totally changed the way I sell real estate,” said Lawrence Greenberg, a sales associate with Van Skiver Realtors, whose own Mantoloking, N.J., office was wrecked in the storm.

Prior to Sandy, prospective buyers rarely mentioned issues such as flood maps and building elevations until the matter of flood insurance came up—often at closing. “Now, everybody asks the question of elevation,” Greenberg said. Even if potential buyers plan to tear down and build new, they ask about the pending changes in flood maps proposed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, because flood insurance rates will depend upon the new zones.

There is no sign of a mass exodus from shoreline communities. The number of for-sale listings in January in the 380 zip codes hit by the storm was about 2 percent below the same time last year, according to online real estate informa-



Trail signs for Manhattan, Rhode Island and Washington, D.C. are posted in front of beachfront homes damaged by Superstorm Sandy in the Breezy Point area of the Queens borough of New York, Friday, Feb. 15, 2013.

tion company Zillow Inc. That indicates that most homeowners are rebuilding, or have not yet decided how to proceed.

But real estate agents in New York and New Jersey say the majority of homes for sale in these areas have some damage from the Oct. 29 storm, and it appears to them that a rising number are being put on the market as the spring home-buying season approaches.

New listings range from destroyed oceanfront properties being sold for the land, to flooded bayside homes untouched since the storm that must be gutted. Even the few undamaged homes in affected neigh-

borhoods are listing at prices about 10 percent lower than they would have been pre-storm.

Somesellersareoverwhelmed by the daunting prospect of restoring a damaged home. Some are older homeowners who had stayed in the houses where they raised their families, but now are relocating. Some didn’t have flood insurance.

“They either don’t have the funds or don’t have the energy to go through the renovating and rebuilding process,” said Jeff Childers, a broker with Childers Sotheby’s International Realty in Normandy Beach, N.J.

Lisa Jackson, broker and owner of Rockaway Properties

in the Belle Harbor section of Queens, N.Y., said a number of her new listings are homes owned by senior citizens. One 85-year-old client was living alone in her 1940s-era six-bedroom, six-bath brick home right on the beach. The house was hammered by Sandy, and must be at least partially demolished, but will still command a hefty price. “Everything on the water is big money,” Jackson said.

But the \$3 million listing price is nevertheless a huge discount from the roughly \$4.25 million it would have commanded before the storm.

Another set of sellers were in the process of getting out be-

fore the storm hit. Jackson had 18 properties in contract prior to Sandy, but all of those sales either fell through or were renegotiated for a lower price.

One 1930s-era three-bedroom, two-bath house with a view of the bay was in contract for \$665,000, but the entire first floor was gutted after it took on about four feet of water. The buyer, a single woman, was unwilling to take on the renovations. The property is back on the market for \$550,000. That’s a 17 percent discount, but the eventual buyer will have to pay for new floors and walls, plus a new kitchen and bathroom.

Still, that sort of cut might

make the neighborhood affordable for a family that was priced out in recent years, when houses were selling for \$750,000 and more.

And in one sense, buying a storm-damaged home can offer an advantage, said Tom Tripodi, president of the Tripodi Group/Douglas Elliman Real Estate in the Long Island city of Long Beach, where damaged houses are selling for about 10 percent less than before the storm.

“If it’s all gutted out, you can do what you want,” he said. “You can own the house with a brand new kitchen, new appliances, new floors.”

In addition to people looking to create their dream house out of a damaged home, Tripodi has seen investors eyeing the area. In Long Beach’s West End neighborhood, for example, investors are looking to tear down gutted 1920s-era ranch homes and build bigger houses with multiple stories at higher elevations in their place.

The shorefront sections of Staten Island are also seeing accelerating turnover of homes that are likely to eventually get torn down.

Lee Venezia, a broker with Neuhaus Realty Inc., recently sold three adjacent bungalows owned by a longtime resident of Staten Island’s Midland Beach for \$240,000 cash - about \$20,000 less than each one might have garnered before the storm. “The homeowner refused to go back,” she said.

The buyer will fix the properties up and rent them “until the dust settles,” Venezia said. Once new flood maps are finalized and new building codes sorted out, she expects the houses to be sold again to a developer who will replace them.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Report: EU to propose controls on bosses’ pay

BERLIN (AP)—A top European Union official says he plans to propose that company shareholders across the continent be given the power to set managers’ pay—an approach similar to an initiative recently approved by voters in non-EU Switzerland. EU internal market commissioner Michel Barnier was quoted Sunday as telling Germany’s Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung newspaper he plans to make his proposal by the end of this year. He says it would mean that at all publicly listed companies in the 27-nation EU shareholders would decide on the level of salaries and so-called “golden handshakes” granted to arriving or departing managers.

Qatar announces large natural gas discovery

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—Qatar says it has discovered as much as 2.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in an offshore field. Energy Minister Mohammed bin Saleh al-Sadah told reporters Sunday the discovery was made at the field known as Block 4 North, off the shore of the Gulf island nation. The field is operated by Qatar Petroleum along with its partners Mitsui Gas Development Qatar and Germany’s Wintershall. Al-Sadah, who is also managing director of Qatar Petroleum, said “we are very pleased” with the discovery. He said it was part of an effort by the country to “prudently explore for and develop our natural resources” as part of contribute to the country’s economic prosperity. OPEC member Qatar is a major exporter of oil and natural gas.

NEW YORK (AP)—Is it too late?

If you’ve stayed out of stocks recently, you might be worried that you’ve missed your chance to get back in. After all, they must be expensive now that the Dow Jones industrial average has risen 120 percent in four years to a record high.

The good news is that stocks still seem a good bet despite the run-up. The bad news: They’re no bargain, at least by some measures, so don’t get too excited.

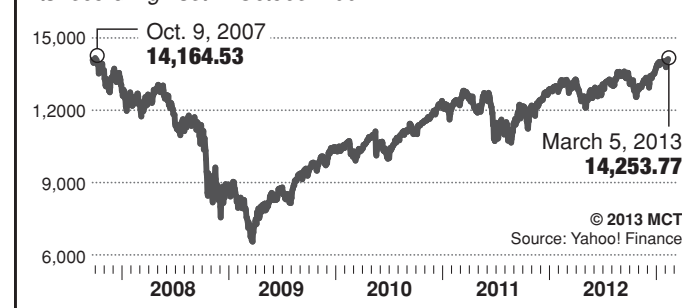
Many investors obsess about stock prices. But you must give equal weight to a company’s earnings. When earnings rise, stocks become more valuable—and their prices usually rise, too.

That seems to be happening now.

“We’ve had record profits upon record profits,” says John Butters, senior earnings analyst at FactSet, a research firm.

Setting a record

The benchmark Dow Jones industrial average has broken its record high set in October 2007.



“And estimates are we’ll have record profits this year, too.”

What’s more, some of the typical threats to stock run-ups—such as rising inflation and interest rates, which often trigger a recession—seem unlikely to appear soon.

Among reasons to consider stocks again:

A STRONGER ECONOMY:

There are no signs of a recession.

And that’s encouraging for stocks, which almost always fall ahead of an economic downturn. Stocks started falling two months before the Great Recession began in December 2007 and one year before the recession that started in March 2001.

Better yet, the economy may be on the verge of faster growth. The Labor Department announced Friday that the unemployment rate in February dipped

from 7.9 percent to 7.7 percent, its lowest level since December 2008. Employers added more than 200,000 jobs each month from November-February, compared with 150,000 in each of the prior three months.

More jobs mean more money for people to spend, and consumer spending drives 70 percent of economic activity.

And there has been a flurry of other hopeful signs lately. Homebuilders broke ground on new homes last year at the fastest pace in four years. Sales of autos, the second-biggest consumer purchase, are at a five-year high.

If recent history is any guide, this economic expansion is still young. The expansion that began in June 2009 is 44 months old. The previous three expansions lasted 73 months, 120 months and 92 months.

Corporate earnings grow in expansions, which can push stocks higher.

Nation

6 teens killed, 2 hurt in northeast Ohio SUV crash

WARREN, Ohio (AP)—A speeding sport utility vehicle taken without permission and carrying eight teenagers crashed into a guardrail Sunday morning and flipped over into a swampy pond in northeast Ohio, killing five boys and the young woman driving, the state highway patrol said.

The Honda Passport veered off the left side of a road and overturned just south of the city of Warren, about 60 miles east of Cleveland, Lt. Anne Ralston said. Investigators say it came to rest upside down in the swamp and sank with five of the victims trapped inside. A sixth, who was thrown from the SUV during the crash, was found under it when the vehicle was taken out of the water.

The two boys who survived escaped from the submerged vehicle and ran a quarter-mile to a home to call 911, the highway patrol said.

State Highway Patrol Lt. Brian Holt said at an evening news conference that speed was a factor, although investigators were still trying to determine the speed at the time of the accident.

"We will not be speculating on alcohol and-or drug usage pending toxicology reports," Holt said.

No one in the vehicle had per-



Mindy Morgan reads a note at the memorial where six teens were killed in a car crash on Park Ave. in Warren, Ohio on Sunday, March 10, 2013. AP

mission to take it, but there were no theft reports, Holt said. The vehicle was licensed to a resi-

dent of Youngstown, about 20 miles away, he said.

After the news conference,

the gates of an impound lot were opened to show the wreck, with windows smashed and ex-

tensive damage to the front end, hood and roof.

Ralston didn't know where the teens were headed when the crash happened at about 7 a.m. and Holt said later it wasn't clear how long they had been out.

"All I know is my baby is gone," said Derrick Ray, who came to the crash site after viewing his 15-year-old son Daylan's body at the county morgue. He said he knew that his son, a talented football play-

er who was looking forward to playing in high school, was out with friends, but didn't know their plans.

A pile of blue, green and copper-red stuffed bears grew at a makeshift memorial at the crash site along a two-lane road tightly bordered with guardrails on either side in an industrial area. The sport utility vehicle had sheared off tall cattails along the guardrail.

There were also notes at the memorial, including a letter from Daylan Ray's 12-year-old half-sister, Mariah Bryant, who said she had learned they were related only in the past year.

"It hurts, it really does, because they are so young and, like, they could have had so much more to life," she said. "We just really started getting close, and it's hard to believe he's gone."

Warren Fire Department Capt. Bill Monrean said a cold water rescue team was deployed to the scene and got five teens out of the submerged vehicle.

"Being a cold water rescue situation, cold water extends life," Monrean told AP Radio. "We knew we had a chance; even being in there a while."

Two of the teens, both 15, were brought to a hospital in full cardiac arrest, St. Joseph Health Center nursing supervisor Julie Gill said, and were pronounced dead there. She said they were treated for hypothermic drowning trauma, indicating they had been submerged in cold water.

The two who survived, 18-year-old Brian Henry and 15-year-old Asher Lewis, both of Warren, were treated for bruising and other injuries and released, she said.

Studies tie stress from storms, war to heart risks

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Stress does bad things to the heart. New studies have found higher rates of cardiac problems in veterans with PTSD, New Orleans residents six years after Hurricane Katrina and Greeks struggling through that country's financial turmoil.

Disasters and prolonged stress can raise "fight or flight" hormones that affect blood pressure, blood sugar and other things in ways that make heart trouble more likely, doctors say. They also provoke anger and helplessness and spur heart-harming behaviors like eating or drinking too much.

"We're starting to connect

emotions with cardiovascular risk markers" and the new research adds evidence of a link, said Dr. Nieca Goldberg, a cardiologist at NYU Langone Medical Center and an American Heart Association spokeswoman.

She had no role in the studies, which were discussed Sunday at an American College of Cardiology conference in San Francisco.

The largest, involving 207,954 veterans in California and Nevada ages 46 to 74, compared those with PTSD, or post-traumatic stress disorder, to those without it. They were free of major heart disease and diabetes when researchers

checked their Veterans Administration medical records from 2009 and 2010.

Checked again about two years later, 35 percent of those with PTSD but only 19 percent of those without it had developed insulin resistance, which can lead to diabetes and hardening of the arteries.

Doctors also saw higher rates of metabolic syndrome—a collection of heart disease risk factors that include high body fat, cholesterol, blood pressure and blood sugar levels. About 53 percent of veterans with PTSD but only 37 percent of those without it had several of these symptoms.

The numbers are estimates

and are not as important as the trend—more heart risk with more stress, said one study leader, Dr. Ramin Ebrahimi, a cardiologist at the Greater Los Angeles VA Medical Center and a professor at UCLA. It shows that PTSD can cause physical symptoms, not just the mental ones commonly associated with it.

"Twenty or 30 years ago PTSD was a term reserved for combat veterans. We have come to realize now that PTSD is actually a much more common disorder and it can happen in veterans who did not undergo combat but had a very traumatic experience" such as losing a friend, he said.

Calif. animal park reopens after fatal lion attack

DUNLAP, Calif. (AP)—A California animal sanctuary where an African lion killed a 24-year-old intern reopened to the public Sunday with the support of the victim's family.

Cat Haven, a private zoo run by the nonprofit Project Survival, observed a moment of silence at noon for Dianna Hanson, who was fatally attacked by the 550-pound male lion Wednesday.

Cat Haven founder Dale Anderson said the park was returning to normal operations so the staff could focus on taking care

of its remaining 29 wild cats, but "we continue to mourn the loss of two family members."

"Dianna would want the work that we are doing to continue and we are re-opening to the public with consent from Dianna's parents," Anderson said at Sunday's news conference. "Her passion for working with these animals was contagious."

Investigators believe the lion, known as Cous Cous, lifted the door of a partially closed feeding cage with its paw and attacked Hanson as she cleaned a

larger enclosure area, according to Fresno County Coroner David Haden.

Hanson, who had been working as a Cat Haven volunteer for two months, died immediately from a broken neck, according to the coroner's report.

A sheriff's deputy fatally shot the 5-year-old lion after it couldn't be coaxed away from Hanson's body.

Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims did not provide many new details about the investigation at Sunday's news

conference, but said the gate that was supposed to contain the lion was not completely closed.

"We believe this was an accident, an error," Mims said, according to the Fresno Bee.

Hanson's relatives say they also believe her death was an accident and that safety protocols were followed at Cat Haven, a 100-acre park in the Sierra foothills about 40 miles east of Fresno.

Wendy Debbas, president of Project Survival, read a letter Sunday from Donna Anderson, the victim's mother, who said she supports the decision to reopen Cat Haven.

ACROSS THE NATION

CDC: Frogs with salmonella could still be in homes

CHICAGO (AP)—They live underwater, eat bloodworms, and are promoted on pet websites. But African dwarf frogs can carry salmonella. An outbreak tied to the frogs sickened nearly 400 people, mostly children, from 2008 to 2011. Since these miniature amphibians can live up to 18 years, some linked to the outbreak may remain in U.S. home aquariums. That's according to government researchers in a Monday report from the journal *Pediatrics*. Five outbreak-linked cases also occurred last year. No one died. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises washing hands after touching the frogs' aquarium water and says young children should not clean aquariums.

Uncle says he tried to save 7 from Ky. house fire

GRAY, Ky. (AP)—Gino Cima raced to a house as it was engulfed by flames in rural Kentucky, frantically trying to save his nephew, his nephew's pregnant fiancée and five young children inside. But he was too late: He found his nephew's body near a side door, laying in a way that suggested the man had been trying to rescue the sleeping children. Before coming upon his nephew's body and that of the man's fiancée, he said he screamed to firefighters: "There's babies in that house!" Cima said Sunday that he arrived within minutes of hearing of the Saturday morning blaze. "When I opened the screen door, she was laying at the door with her head to the door. And I pulled her out," he said, speaking softly. "And about 2 feet from her laying the other way was (my nephew). And I went in and got him and pulled him out. But they were done gone. There wasn't nothing I could do." He said he then raced to the front of the house to try to save the children.

Asia

PH alarmed by alleged Malaysian abuses

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials have asked Malaysia to clarify news reports that Filipinos in Malaysia's eastern Sabah state were being mistreated while authorities crack down on Filipino gunmen staking a claim on the resource-rich region.

The Department of Foreign Affairs on Sunday also reiterated a call for Malaysia to give Philippine diplomats full access to Filipinos who are being held outside the part of Sabah where Malaysian forces are battling followers of a sultan from the southern Philippines who revived a historical claim in the area.

About 200 Filipinos, dozens of them armed, barged into Sabah in Borneo around Feb. 9, sparking assaults by Malaysian troops after efforts to coax the intruders to leave peacefully were ignored. The gunmen fatally shot two police officers on March 1. At least 53 Filipino gunmen and eight Malaysian policemen have died in the conflict, according to Malaysian officials.

The Philippine government condemned the intrusion and called on the gunmen to surrender. But as the Sabah conflict drags on, it has tested the relations of the Southeast Asian countries.



Protesters are pinned against the gates of the Presidential Palace as they are pushed back by police after breaking through security outside the palace in Manila, Philippines, Thursday, March 7, 2013.

Malaysia has previously brokered peace talks between Manila and a large Muslim rebel group, and the two countries are founding members of the Association of South-

east Asian Nations.

The Philippine Foreign Affairs Department said in a statement that it "views with grave concern" Philippine news re-

ports alleging Filipinos have been rounded up in Lahad Datu, the coastal district where the gunmen are believed to be hiding, and other Sabah areas.

"The allegations are alarming and should be properly and immediately addressed by concerned authorities," the statement said.

There was no immediate reaction from Malaysian officials.

But Malaysian police said 85 men and women, held without trial under a security law, were being investigated for their links to the gunmen.

Malaysian national police chief Ismail Omar said a teenager was shot dead Sunday during an ongoing operation to flush out the gunmen. Security personnel were questioning five people when they saw some movement in the bushes, prompting them to fire because they feared they were under attack, he said. They later found the body of the boy, aged between 12 and 15.

A man was also injured in the violence, Ismail said, adding that authorities were still trying to identify the two.

New York-based Human Rights Watch echoed a call by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to ensure the protection of civilians and for humanitarian access to help those affected by the violence.

Malaysia should provide accurate information on what has transpired and either charge or release dozens of suspects detained under a new security law, said Phil Robertson, Human Rights Watch's Asia deputy-director.

Police: Delhi gang rape suspect kills self in jail

NEW DELHI (AP)—The main suspect in the gang rape and fatal beating of a woman on a New Delhi bus, an attack that horrified Indians and set off national protests, committed suicide in jail Monday, police officials said.

Ram Singh, who is accused of driving the bus on which the 23-year-old student was raped and fatally assaulted by a group of six men in December, hanged himself with his own clothes, said G. Sudhakar, the top police official at Tihar jail.

Singh, along with four other men on trial with him on rape, murder and abduction charges, had been under a suicide watch, another jail official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter. He said the five were being held in separate cells in separate buildings at the jail.

If convicted, the men could face the death penalty. The sixth accused is being tried and jailed separately because he is a juvenile.

Singh's lawyer, A. P. Singh, confirmed his client's death, saying he died at 5:30 a.m. He alleged that police maleficence led to his client's death.

"What do you mean killed himself? He has been killed in prison," Singh said.

Lawyers for the men have previously accused police of beating confessions out of their clients.

Indian jails have a reputation for overcrowding, poor management and brutal treatment of inmates.

The woman and a male friend were attacked after boarding the bus Dec. 16 as they tried to return home after watching a movie, police say. The six men, the only occupants of the private bus, beat the man with a metal bar, raped the woman and used the bar to inflict massive internal injuries to her, police say. The victims were dumped naked on the roadside, and the woman died from her injuries two weeks later in a Singapore hospital.

The brutal attack set off nationwide protests about India's treatment of women and spurred the government to hurry through a new package of laws to protect them.

Singh's death comes as the trial was deep underway, with another hearing scheduled for Monday. There was no word if that would be affected.

Afghan leader alleges US, Taliban are colluding

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Sunday accused the Taliban and the U.S. of working in concert to convince Afghans that violence will worsen if most foreign troops leave—an allegation the top American commander in Afghanistan rejected as "categorically false."

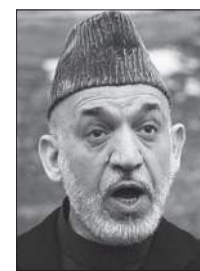
Karzai said two suicide bombings that killed 19 people on Saturday—one outside the Afghan Defense Ministry and the other near a police checkpoint in eastern Khost province—show the insurgent group is conducting attacks to demonstrate that international forces will still be needed to keep the peace after their current combat mission ends in 2014.

"The explosions in Kabul and

Khost yesterday showed that they are at the service of America and at the service of this phrase: 2014. They are trying to frighten us into thinking that if the foreigners are not in Afghanistan, we would be facing these sorts of incidents," he said during a nationally televised speech about the state of Afghan women.

Karzai is known for making incendiary comments in his public speeches, a tactic that is often attributed to him trying to appeal to Taliban sympathizers or to gain leverage when he feels his international allies are ignoring his country's sovereignty. In previous speeches, he has

threatened to join the Taliban and called his NATO allies occupiers who want to plunder Afghanistan's resources.



Karzai

U.S. and NATO forces commander Gen. Joseph Dunford said Karzai had never expressed such views to him, but said it was understandable that tensions would arise as the coalition balances the need to complete its mission and the Afghans' move to exercise more sovereignty.

"We have fought too hard over the past 12 years, we have shed too much blood over the last 12 years, to ever think that violence or instability would be to our advantage," Dunford said.

The Karzai government's latest comments and actions come during U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's first visit to Afghanistan since becoming the Pentagon chief, a trip made in part to meet with Karzai. Hours after Karzai's speech, their joint news conference was canceled by officials citing security concerns, though officials said the two men still planned to meet privately.

The two men had plenty of contentious issues to discuss. The Afghan and U.S. government are negotiating a security pact for the long-term presence of American forces in Afghanistan—the difficulty illustrated when a deal to transfer a U.S. prison outside of Kabul to Afghan authority on Saturday fell through at the last moment.

SKorea, US begin drills as NKorea threatens war

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea and the United States began annual military drills Monday despite North Korean threats to respond by voiding the armistice that ended the Korean War and launching a nuclear attack on the U.S.

After the start of the drills, South Korean officials said their northern counterparts didn't answer two calls on a hotline between the sides, apparently following through on an earlier vow to cut the communication channel because of the drills.

Pyongyang has launched a bombast-filled propaganda campaign against the drills, which involve 10,000 South Korean and about 3,000 American troops, and last week's U.N. vote to impose new sanctions over the North's Feb. 12 nuclear test. Analysts believe that much of that campaign is meant to shore up loyalty among citizens and the military for North Korea's young leader, Kim Jong Un.

Pyongyang isn't believed to be able to build a warhead small

enough to mount on a long-range missile, and the North's military has repeatedly vowed in the past to scrap the 1953 armistice. North Korea wants a formal peace treaty, security guarantees and other concessions, as well as the removal of 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea.

Still, South Korean and U.S. officials have been closely monitoring Pyongyang's actions and parsing the torrent of recent rhetoric from the North, which has been more warlike

than usual.

North Korea regularly claims South Korea-U.S. drills are a preparation for invasion, but Pyongyang has signaled more worry about the drills that began Monday. The drills follow U.N. sanctions that the North says are the result of U.S. hostility aimed at toppling its political system.

North Korea has also warned South Korea of a nuclear war on the divided peninsula and said it was cancelling nonaggression pacts.

World

Venezuela candidate: Govt exploits Chavez death

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan opposition leader Henrique Capriles on Sunday launched what many consider a doomed candidacy to replace Hugo Chavez with a no-holds-barred attack against a government he accused of coldly betraying Venezuelans' trust.

Chavez's political heirs have toyed with Venezuelans' hopes, lying to them about his deteriorating health by suggesting he could recover and even producing decrees he supposedly signed, said Capriles, whom Chavez defeated by a 12-point margin in October.

He did not make direct reference to the decision to embalm Chavez and put him on permanent display, but he said: "You are playing politics with the president's body."

Capriles accused the socialist government that Chavez left behind after 14 years in power of meticulously planning a campaign to assure the election of Nicolas Maduro, Chavez's desired successor.

"Who knows when President Chavez (really) died," he asked. The government says Chavez succumbed to cancer on Tuesday after a nearly two-year battle. It has offered almost no clinical information.

Capriles also called Defense Minister Diego Molero a "disgrace" for publicly backing Maduro. The constitution forbids the military from taking political sides.

"Don't fool yourselves that you're the good and we're the bad," Capriles said in a 45-min-



Opposition leader Henrique Capriles gestures during a press conference in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, March 10, 2013.

ute speech at his eastern Caracas campaign headquarters. "No, you're no better than us. I don't play with death. I don't play with pain."

A picture of Chavez behind him, Maduro appeared almost immediately afterward on state TV, accusing "the losing, miserable candidate" of defaming Chavez and his family.

He called Capriles a "fascist" trying to provoke violence by insulting the

"crystalline, pure image of Commander Chavez."

"You have made the biggest mistake of your life," Maduro said. He said that if Chavez's family seeks legal action "don't say afterward that you are being politically persecuted."

Capriles, a state governor, acknowledged facing long odds against a candidate who wields vast public resources and a state media machine—and has the backing of the country's elec-

toral council.

"As one person said today, 'Capriles, they are taking you to a slaughterhouse. Are you going to be lowered into its meat grinder?'" he said.

Capriles said, however, that he felt he had no other choice.

"How am I not going to fight?" he said. "How are we not going to fight? This is not Capriles' fight. This is every-

Relief in South Africa as Mandela leaves hospital

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—The building that houses South Africa's highest court, made partly with bricks from an apartheid-era prison, symbolizes what Nelson Mandela hoped his country would become, a haven of tolerance wiser for the nation's past anguish.

Its mosaics, slanting columns, and natural light are meant to welcome people to the Constitutional Court, guardian of a charter devoted to human rights and clean governance. Nearby, a former jail complex where Nel-

son Mandela was held echoes a time when whites often resorted to violence to impose their rule over the black majority.

It is a neat fusion of history and aspiration. In reality the country once dubbed the "Rainbow Nation" is drifting between poles, cursed by crime and poverty, blessed with talent and resources, a

trail-blazer of reconciliation that elected Mandela as its first black president in 1994 elections but still can't find harmony.

The anti-apartheid leader and

body's fight."

In some upper-class districts of the capital, people launched fireworks, shouted and honked horns as Capriles announced he would run. Political analysts wondered where the Capriles they witnessed on Sunday had been during last year's campaign.

Capriles laid out potential major themes for his campaign, bemoaning violent crime, persistent poverty and a troubled economy that led the government to devalue the currency last month by more than 30 percent.

The electoral council has set the vote for April 14. Formal campaigning begins just 12 days earlier.

Unlike Capriles, Maduro made repeated references to the possibility of violence in the superheated, abbreviated campaign ahead.

Yet he also called for calm.

"We have to continue to rise above every provocation with peace, peace, peace and peace," Maduro said. "Respect, respect, respect."

Opposition critics say Maduro's swearing-in Friday as acting president was unconstitutional. The charter designates the National Assembly interim head of state if a president-elect cannot be sworn in.

Hostage killings a new, dangerous turn for Nigeria

KANO, Nigeria (AP)—Radical Islamic fighters killed seven foreign hostages in Nigeria, European diplomats said Sunday, making it the worst such kidnapping violence in decades for a country beset by extremist guerrilla attacks.

Nigeria's police, military, domestic spy service and presidency remained silent over the killings of the construction company workers, kidnapped Feb. 16 from northern Bauchi state. The government's silence only led to more questions about the nation's continued inability to halt attacks that have seen hundreds killed in shootings, church bombings and an attack on the United Nations.

The latest victims were four Lebanese and one citizen apiece from Britain, Greece and Italy.

Britain and Italy said all seven of those taken from the Setraco construction company compound had died at the hands of Ansaru, a previously

little-known splinter group of the Islamic sect Boko Haram. Greece also confirmed one of its citizens was killed, while Lebanese authorities didn't immediately comment.

"It's an atrocious act of terrorism, against which the Italian government expresses its firmest condemnation, and which has no explanation," a statement from Italy's foreign ministry read. Italy also denied a claim by Ansaru that the hostages were killed before or during a military operation by Nigerian and British forces, saying there was "no military intervention aimed at freeing the hostages."

Italian Premier Mario Monti identified the slain Italian hostage as Silvano Trevisan and promised Rome would use "every effort" to stop the killers. British Foreign Secretary William Hague called the killings "an act of cold-blooded murder" and identified the U.K. victim as Brendan Vaughan.

A statement from Greece's foreign ministry said authorities had already informed the hostage's family. "We note that the terrorists never communicated or formulated demands to release the hostages," the statement read, which also denied any military raid took place.

Ansaru issued a short statement Saturday saying its fighters kidnapped the foreigners from the construction company's camp at Jama'are, a town 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of Bauchi, the capital of Bauchi state. In the attack, gunmen first assaulted a local prison and burned police trucks, authorities said. Then the attackers blew up a back fence at the construction company's compound and took over, killing a guard in the process, witnesses and police said.

Local officials in Nigeria initially identified one of the hostages as a Filipino, something the Philippines government later denied.



Mandela

Cardinals say Mass, seek prayers ahead of conclave

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Cardinals took a break from maneuvering ahead of this week's papal conclave to fan out across Rome and celebrate Sunday Mass at local parishes.

The worship services provided a chance to see the cardinals up close and hear them preach two days before they enter the conclave. Roman Catholics and others packed the churches, holding up cell phones to take photos and video.

The cardinals said Mass in their titular churches, the parishes that according to church tradition are assigned to them as clergy of Rome, creating a

symbolic bond with the pope. The conclave, with 115 cardinal-electors, is scheduled to start Tuesday.

The cardinals have been holding meetings and informal gatherings ahead of electing a successor to Benedict XVI. Several church leaders acknowledged the historic moment at Mass.

"This Sunday is also special because today we prepare for the conclave," said Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley, in his sermon at Holy Mary of Victory church. "Let us pray that the Holy Spirit illumines the church to choose a new pope who will confirm us in our faith

and make more visible the love of the good shepherd."

The parish priest who introduced the cardinal was more direct, describing O'Malley as "humble, but decisive," and saying he hoped his next visit to the church would be as pontiff. The leading Italian newspaper, Corriere della Sera, has cited the Boston archbishop as a favorite, despite past resistance to the idea of a superpower pope.

Cardinal Angelo Scola of Milan, considered a top papal contender, distributed communion at Church of the Twelve Holy Apostles, and spoke on the mission of the church.

Focus

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Unlike many other Muslim royalties basking in grand palaces and opulent lifestyles, Sultan Jamalul Kiram III's kingdom sits in a rundown two-story house in a poor Islamic community in Manila, the only hint of power and glory the title attached to his name.

"I'm the poorest sultan in the world," the ailing Kiram, 74, told The Associated Press in an interview in his residence in Maharlika village in the Philippine capital.

Although largely forgotten and dismissed as a vestige from a bygone era, Kiram's sultanate, once based in the southern province of Sulu, has sparked the biggest security crisis in Malaysia and the Philippines in decades—early last month, he sent his younger brother with about 200 followers, dozens of them armed, by boat from southern Philippines to a village in Sabah state in neighboring Malaysia to claim the land the sultanate insists belongs to them.

A stunned Malaysia, which runs the frontier resource-rich region of timberlands and palm oil plantations as its second-largest federal state, poured in elite police and army troops and called in airstrikes to quell what it saw as an armed intrusion.

After weeks of sporadic clashes that killed 19 intruders and eight policemen, troops launched a full-scale assault Tuesday, codenamed "Operation Sovereign," but failed to account for most of the Filipinos, who according to the Kiram family were unhurt.

Malaysian forces shot and possibly killed one of the men, who appear to be trying to escape the area, police said. Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said later Wednesday that security forces combing the area found 12 bodies. However, it was not clear if they died in Tuesday's strike or in the previous weeks of clashes.

The crisis has tested the neighbors' friendly ties and hit the leaders of both nations at a delicate time politically.

The Kirams claim Sabah has belonged to their sultanate for centuries and was only leased to Malaysia, which they say pays them a paltry annual rent of 5,300 Malaysian ringgit (\$1,708). Malaysian officials contend the payments are part of an arrangement under which the sultanate has ceded the 74,000 square kilometers (28,000 square miles) of Sabah territory to their country.

Philippine presidents have relegated the volatile feud to the backburner despite efforts by the Kirams to put it back to the national agenda. The Feb. 9 Sabah expedition by the sultan's younger brother, Agbimuddin Kiram, and the ensuing violence have resurrected the long-dormant issue with the murky history beyond anybody's expectations.

One big obstacle for the Philippines is a number of the



In this Tuesday, March 5, 2013 photo, Filipino Sultan Jamalul Kiram III arrives at his home in Maharlika village in Manila, Philippines after undergoing dialysis at a nearby hospital.

Filipino sultan's quest sparks crisis in Malaysia

JIM GOMEZ and SEAN YOONG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kiram heirs, all claiming to be the rightful sultan. That put the government in a quandary on who to deal with for the Sabah claim to be pursued, historian Manolo Quezon III said.

Overrun by history, the Kirams carry royal titles and nothing much else.

"When I was a child, I thought 'princess' was just my name because when you're a child, your idea of being a princess is one with a crown, a palace, a carriage," said Jacel Kiram, a 35-year-old daughter of the sultan, who is regarded a princess.

At his Maharlika village home, the sultan, who has failed kidneys and a heart ailment, struggled with slurred speech to proudly recount the saga of his clan's empire based in the Sulu archipelago in the southern Philippines. Chinese and European leaders, he said, once sent vassals to pay homage to his powerful forebears. The Sulu sultanate, which emerged in the 1400s, preceded both the Philippine republic and Malaysia by centuries.

The exploits of the sultanate's native Tausug warriors were so legendary, the Brunei sultan at the time sought their help in putting down a rebellion in the

Violence in Malaysia

- Filipino invaders demanding recognition as representatives of an old sultanate that ruled the area
- Malaysian forces are searching for the group after clashes with the police that reportedly left 28 dead, including nine police officers

Source: ESRI, BBC

Graphic: Melina Yingling

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1600-1700s. When the uprising was crushed, the Brunei sultan handed over Sabah — then part of Brunei — to his Sulu counterpart as a gift of gratitude.

A Filipino sultan later leased Sabah to a British colonial-era company. The territory was later annexed by Britain. In 1963, six years after colonial Malaya gained independence, Sabah voted to join the new Malaysia.

The Sulu sultanate had steadily declined through the centuries, its power passed on to a succession of leaders and heirs. Jamalul Kiram III is the 33rd sultan and a symbolic leader with followers in Sulu and near-

by southern provinces, which are among the country's poorest and are troubled by Muslim rebels, al-Qaida-linked extremists and outlaws.

Born in Sulu's far-flung Maimbung town in 1938, Kiram is a beloved leader who in his youth turned to dance and singing and played sports, including his favorite, tennis. He once worked as a disc jockey in a Jolo radio station. He took up law but failed to take the bar exams when he joined a prominent cultural dance group in the 1960s, according to his wife, Fatima Celia.

He also ran for senator in 2007,

backed by former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo—a tacit recognition of his sultanate leadership—but lost, leaving his family in debt due to the high campaign expenses, she said.

Last year, the sultan was diagnosed with failed kidneys and began to receive dialysis treatment, causing family members to miss out on monthly payments for their house, which they nearly lost had friends not helped out, Celia said.

Since then, Kiram has mostly been sidelined to his bedroom, which resembles a hospital unit with two oxygen tanks and serves as an office where he met visitors and followers seeking all sorts of help.

In his younger years, Kiram said he traveled often to Sabah. "It's really very rich," he said of Sabah. "When I'm in Sabah, I feel at home."

Sabah and Sulu are separated by a narrow strip of the Sulu Sea that at its shortest span can be traversed by boat in 30 minutes. The two provinces have shared traditional ties, and people, who are of the same ethnic stock, frequently travel back and forth.

Some 800,000 Filipinos, mostly Muslims, have settled

in Sabah over the years to seek work and stability.

Although tensions between the two communities are not uncommon, it is feared that the Kiram's claims and the violence over the past week will sour relations further and could lead to retaliation against the long-staying Filipino settlers.

It was his decrepit sultanate's inability to help out Filipino followers, who are seeking work and greener pastures, that he said prompted him to allow his brother to lead a first batch of settlers to relocate in a village in Sabah's coastal district of Lahad Datu, the event that triggered the three-week deadly standoff.

Worried about straining relations with affluent Malaysia, Philippine President Benigno Aquino III has walked a delicate tightrope, careful to avoid a collision course with Malaysia and at the same time reach out to the Kirams, who accused him of mishandling the crisis and siding with Malaysia. The Sabah standoff erupted as Aquino was grappling with a separate rift with China over contested South China Sea territories.

Malaysia has also brokered peace talks between Manila and the largest Muslim rebel group in the southern Philippines. Both countries are founding members of an influential regional bloc, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

In Malaysia, activists have called for tougher border security and immigration policies in Sabah, presenting a major political challenge to Prime Minister Najib Razak's ruling coalition, which faces general elections that must be held by the end of June.

James Chin, political science lecturer with Monash University in Malaysia, said that the crisis could spell trouble for Najib if the Filipino community in Sabah and Sarawak states, many who have assimilated into Malaysian society and hold identity cards, vote against his ruling coalition.

Sabah and Sarawak on Borneo jointly account for a quarter of parliamentary seats and are key to a victory for Najib's coalition.

The Kirams said the sultanate wanted the Philippine government to pursue their claim to Sabah, but successive presidents have ignored their plea.

Many stories of poor Filipinos illtreated by Malaysian authorities in Sabah provided the final straw, Kiram's wife said.

"It's good if they were placed in jail," she said. "The problem is they are caned, they are punished and then deported ... we couldn't do anything."

The sultan said his followers being hunted in Sabah were fighting for their rights and honor, something profoundly important among his followers. The Malaysians could wipe them out but the problem won't go away, his wife said.

"They would be replaced by others and generations more to come," she said.

Overdrive

In US, speedometer top speed often exceeds reality

By TOM KRISHER
AP AUTO WRITER

DETROIT (AP)—The speedometer on the Toyota Yaris says the tiny car can go 140 miles (225 kilometers) per hour.

In reality, its 106-horsepower engine and automatic transmission can't push it any faster than 109 mph (175 kph).

So why do the Yaris—and most other cars sold in the U.S.—have speedometers that show top speeds they can't possibly reach?

The answer has deep roots in an American culture that loves the rush of driving fast. The automakers' marketing departments are happy to give people the illusion that their family car can travel at speeds rivaling a race car. And companies often use one speedometer type in various models across the world, saving them money.

But critics say the ever-higher numbers are misleading. Some warn they create a safety concern, daring drivers to push past freeway speed limits that are up to 75 mph (120 kph) in most states.

"You reach a point where it becomes ridiculous," says Larry Dominique, a former Nissan product chief who now is executive vice president of the TrueCar.com auto pricing website. "Eighty percent plus of the cars on the road are not designed for and will not go over 110 mph (177 kph)."

Last year, speedometer top speeds for new versions of the mainstream Ford Fusion and Chevrolet Malibu were increased to 160 mph (257 kph), which approaches speeds on some race tracks. They are midsize family haulers, the most popular segment of the U.S. auto market, and like most new cars, have top speeds that seldom exceed 120 mph (193 kph).

There are several explanations for the speedometers.

When people are comparison shopping, cars with higher speedometer readings appear to be sportier. "People



In a Feb. 11, 2013 photo, the speedometer of a 2013 Ford Fusion displayed at the Bob Maxey dealership in Detroit.

really want to see higher numbers," said Fawaz Baltaji, a business development manager for Yazaki North America, a large supplier of speedometers for auto companies. "It is indicative of a more powerful engine. There's a marketing pitch to it."

Although cars with high-horsepower engines can come close to the top speedometer speeds, most are limited by engine control computers. That's because the tires can overheat and fail at higher speeds. Tires now common on mainstream cars often can't go above 130 mph (209 kph) or they could fail.

Automakers, in a push to cut costs, now sell the same cars worldwide and use the same speedometers in different cars all over the world. In China and Europe, governments require that the top number on speedometers be higher than a car's top speed. Cars sold in Europe, for instance, have faster top speeds than those sold elsewhere because they can be driven over 150 mph (241 kph) on sections of Germany's Autobahn. So to sell the same car or speedometer globally, the numbers have to be high-

er, said Kurt Tesnow, who's in charge of speedometer and instrument clusters for General Motors.

Also, some mainstream cars have some cousins that go faster and need higher speedometer numbers. A Chevy Malibu with a 2-liter turbocharged engine, for instance, can go 155 mph (249 kph), far higher than the mainstream version. The little Toyota Yaris gets its speedometer from another Toyota model that's sold in other countries. "It's not that each speedometer is designed for that specific vehicle," said Greg Thome, a company spokesman.

In a similar vein, U.S. automakers can make engines that blow past 70 mph (112 kph) because they make cars for global drivers and speed limits vary around the world. And drivers like the security of knowing they could outrun a natural disaster, such as a tornado, if necessary.

The speedometer designs also reflect research that found most people like the needle to hit highway speeds at the top of the speedometer's circle, said Yazaki's Baltaji.

The rising speedometer numbers aren't surprising to Joan Claybrook, the top U.S. auto safety regulator under President Jimmy Carter. She's been fighting the escalation for years and says it encourages drivers—especially younger ones—to drive too fast. During her tenure, she briefly got speedometer numbers lowered.

"They think that speed sells," she said of automakers. "People buy these cars because they want to go fast."

For years, most speedometers in the U.S. topped out at 120. Then, in 1980, Claybrook, who ran the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, limited speedometers to 85 mph (136 kph), even though cars could go much faster.

The move, designed to end the temptation to push cars to their limits, drew outrage. Some automakers got around the rule by ending the numbers at 85 but leaving lines beyond that to show higher speeds.

The limit was short-lived, overturned two years later by President Ronald Reagan, who campaigned on a pledge to end onerous government regulations.

The 2014 Chevrolet Corvette speedometer and some Jaguar models now peak at 200 mph (321 kph).

Claybrook concedes there's no data to show the 85 mph limit saved lives, but she believes it did. She called the ever-higher speedometer numbers immoral.

At present, the government has no plans to reinstate speedometer limits or regulate top speeds, saying there's no evidence to show it would prevent crashes. "Ultimately, drivers are subject to speed limits mandated by the states regardless of the top speed listed on a vehicle speedometer," NHTSA spokeswoman Lynda Tran said.

But Claybrook isn't satisfied. "To have a car register any more than the maximum speed limit is really a statement by the company: Drive faster. It's OK," she said. "It's encouraging people to violate the law."

Former GM executive tapped for Toyota board

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota has tapped a former executive at U.S. rival General Motors to join its board, the first time in the Japanese automaker's 76-year history it is appointing directors from outside the company.

The appointment of Mark Hogan, effective April 1, underlines efforts at Toyota Motor Corp. to become more internationally minded, transparent and nimble in regional markets as it recovers from difficult years, including a massive recall fiasco in the U.S.

Under changes announced Wednesday by President Akio Toyoda, Toyota will set up a new division to oversee North American, European and Japanese markets and another for emerging markets.

The world's biggest automaker also promoted four non-Japanese managers to oversee regional businesses, including James Lentz, an American who already leads Toyota Motor Sales in the U.S. He will head the North American region.

Like other conservative Japanese companies, Toyota has been far more insular than its Western counterparts, and had been closed in the past to the idea of board members from outside company ranks.

The changes reflect soul-searching at the company following massive global recalls over sticky gas pedals, faulty floor mats, problematic brakes and other defects that spanned several years from 2009 and affected more than 14 million vehicles—some models being recalled repeatedly.

The recalls tarnished Toyota's reputation for quality and raised questions about its ability to respond to problems that crop up in its rapidly expanding global empire, and to reassure international authorities and customers of its trustworthiness and transparency.

Besides Hogan, two Japanese, from the insurance and securities industries, were picked as outside board members. They are Ikuo Uno, an executive advisor at Nippon Life Insurance Co., and Haruhiko Kato, president of the Japan Securities Depository Center.

Hogan, an independent consultant and former GM group vice president, has been Toyoda's friend since they worked together more than a decade ago at NUMMI, or New United Motor Manufacturing, a California auto plant jointly run by Toyota and GM. Hogan has also previously advised Toyota.

The board appointments require approval from shareholders at a meeting in June.

Toyota has had a foreigner on its board just once in the past, in 2007, with Jim Press, an American who had headed Toyota's North American operations at a time when fears were growing about a possible American backlash over Toyota's stupendous growth. But Press left shortly afterward for a job with Chrysler.

UNDER THE HOOD

Scan tools a great start to diagnostics

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



QUESTION: I have three different vehicles that I try to maintain, along with trying to pass vehicle system enigmas along to my sons and their assorted vehicles. What would be a "quality" OBD-II scan tool for use, in a variety of cars and trucks, now and into the near future?—Sam Bass

ANSWER: This is a fun topic, as these tools keep getting better and better regardless of brand. A scan tool allows one to communicate with a vehicle's engine management and other computers. Scan tools come in basically four formats: OBD-II compliant, which are inexpensive and home-tech friendly; PC- and smartphone-compatible modules; professional-grade aftermarket;

and manufacturer-specified, which can hit \$10,000.

U.S. vehicles built since 1996 are required to communicate via a standardized protocol, at least for emission-related topics. OBD-II, or On-Board Diagnostics 2, generic scan tools are widely available for \$40-\$200 and allow a number of functions:

- Checking and clearing pending or current emission-related diagnostic trouble codes, observe emission test readiness;

- Replying freeze-frame data, a snapshot of engine data taken by the vehicle when an emission fault occurs;

- Observe live engine data, which includes only about 15-20 items on most 1996-2004 vehicles and many more since;

- Check calibration status;

- A few other general functions.

Mid-priced OBD-II scan tools do all

the above, and likely display trouble code descriptions and manufacturer-specific trouble codes, which begin with P1 and P3. That goes beyond the standardized codes mandated by OBD-II, which begin with P0 and P2. Higher data-refresh rates and more sophisticated display screens often provide the ability to graph data, besides displaying it in list form, which can be helpful to spot a glitch or irregularity. Connecting and printing to a PC may also be possible.

Scan tools approaching the upper end of the price range can look at more detailed information; record and play back data; display bilingual or trilingual information; allow online updating and website access; and hold information for off-car playback. EOBD or European coverage may also be offered, and as prices hit the \$200-and-up range, coverage for antilock brake system and supplemental restraint system

can be found, as well as coverage for certain, generally domestic pre-1996 OBD-I vehicles.

It's important to remember that OBD-II generic information is a small but very useful slice of the whole engine and vehicle pie. It's great to be able to identify the general cause of an illuminated check engine light, but additional diagnostic information and testing are often needed to truly nail down the problem. For the price, these tools are magnificent.

If considering a pre-owned or lower-end scan tool, be sure it's compatible with CAN, a newer communication protocol, and does most of the things mentioned in my description of generic scan tools. Don't come home with just a code reader.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Princess whose forbidden love gripped Sweden dies

By KARL RITTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

STOCKHOLM (AP)—She was one of the better kept secrets of Sweden's royal household: a commoner and divorcee whose relationship with Prince Bertil was seen as a threat to the Bernadotte dynasty.

In a touching royal romance, Welsh-born Princess Lilian and her Bertil kept their love unofficial for decades and were both in their 60s when they finally received the king's blessing to get married.

Lilian died in her Stockholm home on Sunday at age 97. The Royal Palace didn't give a cause of death, but Lil-

ian suffered from Alzheimer's disease and had been in poor health for several years.

She met Sweden's Prince Bertil in 1943, but his obligations to the throne and Lilian's status as a divorced commoner prevented them from making their love public. The couple's sacrifices and lifelong dedication to one another gripped the hearts of Swedes.

"If I were to sum up my life, everything has been about my love," the witty, petite princess said of her husband when she turned 80 in 1995. "He's a great man, and I love him."

Born Lilian Davies in Swansea, Wales, on Aug. 30, 1915, she moved to London at 16 to

embark on a career as a model and an actress, showcasing hats and gloves in commercials and taking on small roles in movies. She met British actor Ivan Craig, whom she married in 1940.

After World War II broke out, Craig was drafted into the British army while Lilian stayed behind in London, working at a factory making radio sets for the British merchant fleet and serving at a hospital for wounded soldiers.

At the time, Prince Bertil was stationed at the Swedish Embassy in the British capital as a naval attache. The couple first laid eyes on each other in the fancy nightclub Les Ambassadeurs shortly before Lilian's 28th birthday in 1943. Lilian



Princess Lilian

then invited him to a cocktail party in her London apartment. But it wasn't until he fetched her with his car following an air raid in her neighborhood that the romance blossomed, Lilian recalled in her 2000 memoirs, "My Life with Prince Bertil."

"He was so handsome my prince. Especially in uniform. So charming and thoughtful. And so funny. Oh how we laughed together," Lilian wrote.

Lilian was still married at the time, but the situation resolved itself since Craig, too, had met someone else during his years abroad in the army, and the couple divorced on amicable terms.

Upon Bertil's return to Sweden, however, his relationship

with a commoner became a delicate issue.

Bertil became a possible heir to the throne when his eldest brother died in a plane crash, leaving behind an infant son—the current King Carl XVI Gustaf. Two other brothers had dropped out of the line of succession by marrying commoners.

Bertil's father, King Gustaf VI Adolf, ordered him to abstain from marrying Lilian, since that would jeopardize the survival of the Bernadotte dynasty.

Instead, the couple let their romance flourish in an unofficial manner, living together in a common-law marriage for decades.

They first lived in their house in Sainte-Maxime in France, but later shared their time between the French village and Stockholm, where Lilian discreetly stayed in the background for years.

Despite the royal reluctance to recognize her officially, Lilian's charm and warm personality soon won the Swedes over, and magazines depicted the happy couple playing golf and riding around on the prince's motorbike. When Prince Bertil had to use a walking frame after an operation, she cheerfully nicknamed it his "Bugatti."

In 1976, some 33 years after they first met, the new king finally gave them the approval they had been waiting for.

On a cold December day the same year, Lilian, or "Lily" as the prince used to call her, became princess of Sweden and duchess of the southern province of Halland in a ceremony at the Drottningholm Palace Chapel just outside Stockholm. The bride had by then turned 61 and the groom was 64.

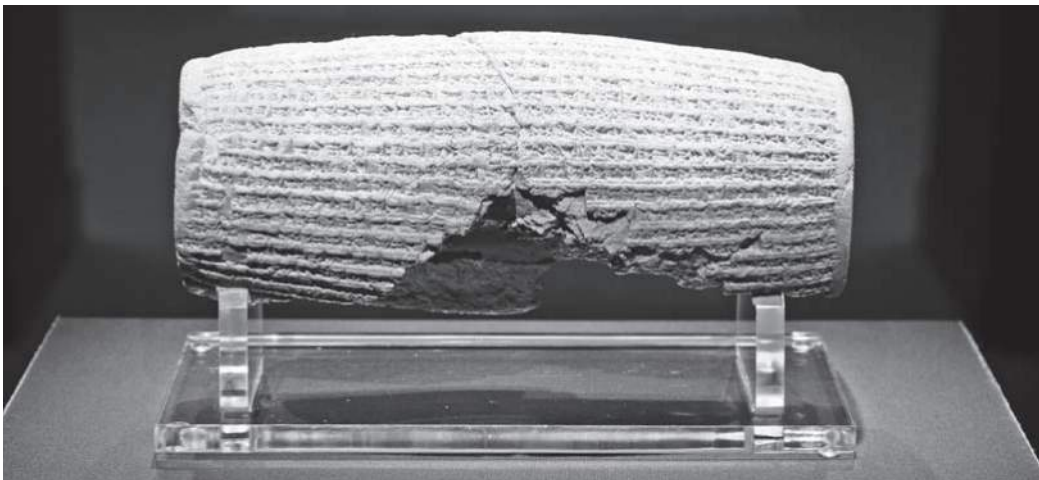
The couple never had any children.

Prince Bertil died in the couple's residence Villa Solbacken in Stockholm in 1997 after unspecified lung problems.

Lilian took over some of her husband's duties, especially as an award presenter for various sports associations.

Health problems forced her to cut back on some of her royal duties. In 2006 she stopped attending the annual Nobel Prize banquet, and the next year she also stopped taking part in the award ceremony.

In 2010, the palace said Lilian suffered from Alzheimer's disease, preventing her from attending the wedding that summer of Crown Princess Victoria and Daniel Westling.



In this image provided by The Smithsonian Institution, the Cyrus Cylinder is seen on display at the Smithsonian's Freer Sackler Gallery in Washington.

Cyrus the Great artifact shown in US for the first time

WASHINGTON (AP)—A nearly 2,600-year-old clay cylinder described as the world's first human rights declaration is being shown for the first time in the United States.

The Cyrus Cylinder from ancient Babylon will be displayed beginning Saturday at the Smithsonian's Sackler Gallery. It will be in Washington through April 28, on loan from the British Museum. A yearlong U.S. tour will follow, with exhibitions planned in Houston, New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The cylinder carries an account, written in cuneiform, of how Persian King Cyrus conquered Babylon in 539 B.C. and would allow freedom of worship and abolish forced labor. The account also confirms a story from the Bible's Old Testament, describing how Cyrus released people held captive to go back to their homes, including the Jews' return to Jerusalem to build the Temple.

The cylinder was buried under a foundation wall of the city of Babylon. It's long been held as a model of good governance for a vast, multicultural society, and it made Cyrus famous from accounts in the Bible and writings by Greek authors. When the cylinder was discovered on a British expedition in modern-day Iraq in 1879, it was consid-

ered the first physical evidence of the biblical account.

"It's the first evidence we have of people reflecting on how you run a society of diversity, without just forcing uniformity," British Museum Director Neil MacGregor said. "The big question is: How can you manage a state that doesn't have one faith?"

The museum pairs the cylinder with other artifacts from Cyrus' era to show how the Persian empire grew to span many religions, languages and cultures, its borders stretching from China to Egypt and the Balkans. It includes seals showing the king's authority, Persian coins, and religious symbols in gold and silver.

Also on view are two pieces of a flat tablet with matching words from the cylinder, showing it was published as a proclamation. The pieces were discovered in the British Museum's collection in 2009.

The cylinder carries ongoing relevance in the world today, Sackler Gallery Director Julian Raby said. "Here is a document that in its time declared a new way of ruling ... in which diversity was respected within a culture," he said.

When the cylinder was shown in 2010 and 2011 in Iran, it drew at least half a million visitors,

showing that Iranians are still proud of the artifact as a central piece of their history, curators said. Before the current tour, it had been shown only in Tehran, Barcelona and London.

In the U.S., it's being shown with one of President Thomas Jefferson's copies of "Cyropædia," a book by Greek historian Xenophon about the philosophies of Cyrus, to illustrate how the Persian king inspired America's founding fathers.

Curator John Curtis said the story of Cyrus also is a reminder of the rich history of the Middle East as a region of diverse cultures that included relations between Israel and Iran.

Though the cylinder is a small object, it raises big political questions, MacGregor said. Both Europeans and Americans looked to the Cyrus model to manage a state with more than one faith.

"Only the Americans get to the Cyrus model of a state that's equidistant from every faith so that you acknowledge the value of faith, but you don't endorse any one variety," MacGregor said. "Of course, we're all trying now to live in cities and countries that have an unprecedented diversity in faith, language, ethnicity ... and this is the first model of someone who got it to work for several hundred years."

In Humble Gratitude



We the family of

Florante "Dante" Batallones

wish to express our sincerest and heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all our families, relatives and friends for your thoughtful expression of love, sympathy, prayers, personal assistance and monetary love gift.

Our special thanks to Rev. Pastor Danny Ibanez, the Doctors and nurses.

To all who have supported us in one way or another, for your presence at the prayer meeting and the burial, no words can express enough our big "Thank you" and may God Bless us all.

*Because He Lives,
Batallones Family, Wife & Children*

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Oz The Great and Powerful 3D

Friday		7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	7:00	
Mon through Thurs		7:00	

Cast: James Franco, Rachel Weisz, Michelle Williams
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis

Director Sam Raimi heads to the fantastic world of Oz for Walt Disney Pictures with this tale of how the great Wizard ended up as the ruler of his colorful land. David Lindsay-Abaire (Rabbit Hole) and Mitchell Kapner penned the script.



Oz The Great and Powerful 2D

Friday	4:00
Saturday	4:00
Sunday	4:00
Mon through Thurs	4:00

Cast: James Franco, Rachel Weisz, Michelle Williams
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG



Jack The Giant Slayer 3D

Friday		7:20
Saturday	1:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	7:20
Mon through Thurs		7:20

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Kassir, Ewan McGregor
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Jack The Giant Slayer 2D

Friday	4:20	9:50
Saturday	4:20	9:50
Sunday	4:20	
Mon through Thurs	4:20	

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Kassir, Ewan McGregor
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13



The Last Exorcism II

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon through Thurs		4:15	7:15

Cast: Ashley Bell, Julia Garner, Spencer Treat Clark
Genre: Horror, Thriller • Rated PG 13



21 and Over

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Mon through Thurs		4:25	7:25

Cast: Justin Chon, Miles Teller, Jonathan Keltz
Genre: Comedy • Rated R



Snitch

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Mon through Thurs		4:10	7:10

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Benjamin Bratt, Barry Pepper
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13



Escape From Planet Earth 3D

Friday	4:30	9:45
Saturday	4:30	9:45
Sunday	4:30	
Mon through Thurs	4:30	

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG



Escape From Planet Earth 2D

Friday		7:30
Saturday	1:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	7:30
Mon through Thurs		7:30

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG



Good Day To Die Hard

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Mon through Thurs		4:05	7:05

Cast: Bruce Willis, Cole Hauser, Jai Courtney
Genre: Action • Rated R

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Disney, Sam Raimi gamble on return trip to Oz



This film image released by Disney Enterprises shows the character China Girl, voiced by Joey King, left, and James Franco, as Oz, in a scene from "Oz the Great and Powerful."

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Returning to the mystical land of "The Wizard of Oz" took more than 70 years and several hundred millions dollars.

Disney releases its highly anticipated prequel to the 1939 movie classic on Friday. Directed by Sam Raimi, "Oz the Great and Powerful" explores the origins of the wizard (James Franco) and the witches (Mila Kunis, Michelle Williams and Rachel Weisz) in a three-dimensional Oz.

The \$200 million production, not counting another \$100 million in estimated marketing costs, is a huge gamble for everyone involved, considering "The Wizard of Oz" is among the most enduring and beloved films of all time. Even Raimi, director of the first three "Spider-Man" movies, described the project as "daunting."

The risk is compounded by a general box-office slump and a poor showing for last weekend's \$200 million big-screen take on another popular tale, "Jack the Giant Slayer," based on "Jack and the Beanstalk."

"The plus side is that there's such incredible awareness of 'The Wizard of Oz' that it's going to translate into a mammoth opening weekend for 'Oz the Great and Powerful,'" said Dave Karger, chief correspondent for Fandango.com. "The danger is that many people's natural tendency will be to compare this to 'The Wizard of Oz,' and there's no film that will ever live up to that."

According to a survey done by the site, nearly all those buying tickets for the new "Oz" film have seen the original, and the film is far and away the most popular of the week, comprising almost 80 percent of tickets sold.

Franco has loved the world created by L. Frank Baum since he first saw the 1939 movie on TV as a kid. It inspired him to read all of Baum's books, which led him to other fantasy fare such as "Alice in Wonderland" and the works of J. R. R. Tolkien. But the notion of revisiting

the Land of Oz with an A-list director wasn't enough to lure Franco to the leading role.

"I already had a lot of faith in the movie because Sam was attached, but as an Oz fan, I wanted to be sure that the approach was sound," the actor said. "They very smartly did not just do a boy version of Dorothy and have the same trip through Oz."

For one, Franco notes the wizard is a con man and his trip through Oz is very different than Dorothy's was. "He'll be getting into awkward situations, basically kind of bouncing off of Oz in ways that Dorothy didn't," the actor said.

While the new "Oz" has plenty of familiar elements—the yellow brick road, Emerald City, witches, munchkins (now multi-ethnic)—

"the ways they're interacting with the protagonist (are) completely different," Franco said.

As the film opens in sepia-toned 1905 Kansas, Franco's Oscar Diggs is a carnival magician who dreams of fame and fortune at any cost. When a twister whisks him to a fantastical land bearing his stage name—Oz—whose inhabitants believe him to be a wizard sent to save them, he can't believe his luck. Power and riches are practically his for the taking.

But first, he faces three witches, none of whom are exactly as they seem. Oz befriends a few locals, including a flying monkey (Zach Braff) and a china doll (Joey King), and eventually makes the plight of the people of Oz his own.

Like Franco, Raimi grew up loving the original "Oz" film.

"I remember it being the scariest movie I'd ever seen in my life and also the most touching movie, the saddest, sweetest thing I'd ever seen," he said. "It was that spirit of sweetness, of characters becoming complete by the end of the story—that was the most powerful thing I took away from the 1939 classic and the thing we tried collectively to put in our picture."

Some critics have questioned the casting of Franco as the wizard. The AP's Christy Lemire wrote that he's "too boyish for the role ... neither charismatic nor self-loathing enough."

Yet Raimi believes Franco was the perfect actor to portray the wizard: "He was born to play the part."

Franco and Raimi are personal friends, and the director said he's seen the actor's growth as a performer and an individual since they first worked together on 2002's "Spider-Man."

"I knew James was a moody dreamer, and that's who Oz is," Raimi said. "He dreams of being this great man, even if he doesn't know what greatness is."

The director knew Franco could embody both the selfishness—which Raimi had seen in the actor when he was younger—and the heart of the wizard.

"Because James had, in his life, been all of these things, I knew that if he could grab a hold of them and recognize them and hold up a mirror to himself—however actors do that—he could channel everything he was through this character and really bring him to life like no one else," Raimi said.

Franco said playing the role "was really like I was stepping into the imaginative world of my childhood."

And coming into Oz through the wily wizard, whose origins were never fully explored in the Baum books, is an inspired way to revisit the world, he said.

"It's a great way to return to Oz through a character that you sort of know but not really," the actor said. "Because of that, it's a great entry that feels familiar and new."

Disney's 'Oz' bewitches the box office with \$80M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Oz the Great and the Powerful" clicked with moviegoers.

Disney's 3-D prequel to the classic L. Frank Baum tale "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" debuted in first place and earned \$80.3 million at the weekend box office in the U.S. and Canada and \$69.9 million overseas, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Oz" tells the origin of James Franco as the wizard with Mila Kunis, Michelle Williams and Rachel Weisz as the trio of witches he encounters after crashing in the mystical realm of Oz.

The updated take on "Oz," which was directed by original "Spider-Man" trilogy mastermind Sam Raimi, was a gamble that looks like it will pay off for the Walt Disney Co. The film reportedly cost \$200 million and opened a week after "Jack the Giant Slayer," another big-budget 3-D extravaganza that reimagines a classic tale, flopped in its opening weekend, debuting with \$28 million at the box office.

"Oz" was also golden overseas. The film conjured up \$69.9 million from 46 foreign markets, including Russia and the United Kingdom. "Oz" could follow in the footsteps of Disney's "Alice in Wonderland," another costly 3-D film, which opened on the same weekend in 2010 and went on to gross over \$1 billion worldwide.

1. "Oz the Great and Powerful," \$80.3 million. (\$69.9 million international.)
2. "Jack the Giant Slayer," \$10 million. (\$4.9 million international.)
3. "Identity Thief," \$6.3 million.
4. "Dead Man Down," \$5.3 million.
5. "Snitch," \$5.1 million. (\$4.7 million international.)
6. "21 & Over," \$5 million.
7. "Safe Haven," \$3.8 million.
8. "Silver Linings Playbook," \$3.7 million. (\$6 million international.)
9. "Escape from Planet Earth," \$3.2 million.
10. "The Last Exorcism Part II," \$3.1 million.

Taylor Swift visits young cancer patient in Omaha

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP)—Taylor Swift has visited a young cancer patient in Nebraska.

The singer was at Children's Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha on Saturday to see 10-year-old Lauren Hacker. The fifth-grader at St. Margaret Mary School has cancer.

The Omaha World-Herald reports the meeting was lobbied for on social media. It was later arranged by Lauren's family and the singer's representatives.

Swift kicks off her worldwide tour Wednesday in Omaha for her latest album, "Red."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Art found in US garage appraised at \$30M

BELLPORT, New York (AP)—Works by an obscure Armenian-American abstract impressionist discovered in a New York cottage have been appraised at \$30 million. The cottage's new owner in 2007 found thousands of paintings, drawings and journals by Arthur Pinajian in a garage and attic. News 12 Long Island says Peter Hastings Falk valued the works. He once appraised art from the Andy Warhol estate. Some pieces already have sold for \$500,000. A recently published book by art historian William Innes Homer calls Pinajian's abstractions among the best of his era.

Marvel releasing some 700 No. 1 issues digitally

In comics, the first issue is where the story starts and the legend begins. Marvel Entertainment, home to the Fantastic Four, the X-Men and the Avengers, among others, is making more than 700 first issues available to digital readers starting Sunday for free through the Marvel app and the company's website. After Tuesday, they'll be sold for \$1.99 to \$3.99 per issue. The titles go from the 1960s Silver Age to contemporary issues with characters including Mr. Fantastic, Wasp, Power Man and Iron Fist, said David Gabriel, senior vice president of sales. **(AP)**

Photographer LaChapelle sued, accused of beating

NEW YORK (AP)—Celebrity photographer David LaChapelle has been sued for \$1 million by a U.S. gallery director who claims he beat and choked him. According to the lawsuit, the *Vanity Fair* and *Rolling Stone* photographer attacked James Parmenter at a New York City apartment in March 2012. The suit was filed Wednesday in Manhattan Supreme Court. It says Parmenter was choked "to the point of unconsciousness." The *New York Post* reports that LaChapelle's representative denied the allegations. Parmenter has exhibited LaChapelle's works at his Bigfork Collaborations gallery, where his prints go for more than \$100,000 each.



Brangelina in a bottle: Jolie-Pitt wine snapped up

PARIS (AP)—Nine little letters on the back of the bottle set this rose wine apart from other fruits of the Provence grape harvest: Jolie-Pitt.

The Miraval Rose 2012 was produced at the southern French estate of Chateau Miraval—property of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.

It's the first Miraval vintage stamped by the Hollywood couple, in a joint venture with established vintner Marc Perrin. The back label reads "bottled by Jolie-Pitt and Perrin."

The Perrin family spokesman says the first 6,000 bottles put on sale online Thursday were bought within five hours. The wine sold for €105 (\$139) for a 6-bottle case.

There was no immediate comment from publicists for Pitt and Jolie.

The wine, in a bottom-heavy, champagne-like bottle, goes on sale to restaurants and wholesalers later this month.

A bottle of Miraval, Cote de Provence rose wine is displayed in Paris, Thursday March 7, 2013.

AP

Osbourne confirms seizure, tweets hospital photo

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kelly Osbourne says she had a seizure and doctors are trying to figure out why.

The 28-year-old TV personality posted a photo on Twitter late Thursday of an IV in her tattooed left arm. She thanked her fans for



Osbourne

their "beautiful well wishes."

Osbourne was hospitalized Thursday after collapsing on the set of E! network's "Fashion Police," where she serves as a panelist alongside Joan Rivers, Giuliana Rancic and George Kotsiopoulos.

Osbourne is the daughter of rocker Ozzy Osbourne and "The Talk" co-host Sharon Osbourne. She was profiled with her family on the MTV reality series "The Osbournes" and has appeared as a contestant on "Dancing with the Stars."

Representatives for E! and Kelly Osbourne didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Bonnie Tyler to sing for Britain at Eurovision

LONDON (AP)—After years of holding out for a hero, Britain has chosen Welsh singer Bonnie Tyler as its entry to the continent-wide Eurovision Song Contest.

The 61-year-old Tyler, whose 1980s hits include "Total Eclipse of the Heart" and "Holding Out For a Hero," will represent Britain at the contest in Malmo, Sweden, in May.

Tyler said Thursday she is "honored and delighted" to represent her country with the song "Believe in Me."

The contest, which sees bubblegum pop acts vie for national glory, is a kitschy fixture on the European cultural calendar, watched by more than 100 million people.

Britain has not won since



In this file photo dated Nov. 1, 2009, British singer Bonnie Tyler performs in London.

1997. Last year's U.K. entrant, septuagenarian singer Engelbert Humperdinck, came second-last.

British viewers like to blame geopolitics, rather than talent, for the country's poor showing.

Readers offer advice for those discouraged by online dating

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I read the letter you ran on Dec. 21 from "Dateless in Dayton." We have a few thoughts on the matter we'd like to share with him and anyone else who is having bad luck getting responses on dating websites.



Dear Abby

We are middle-aged and have been together for two years. Even though we deactivated our memberships in the dating sites we were part of, we still get emails daily that "'So-and-So' sent you a message." It appears these sites still show our profiles as active, allowing people to try to contact us. So it's entirely possible that the women "Dateless" has contacted were inactive or expired members who were never able to see his messages.

We would like to reassure "Dateless" that the problem may not be him. We would also like to encourage him not to give up on finding a mate. He needs to get out there and do the things he loves because he may end up meeting someone that way. If he covers all his bases and is himself, he'll do OK.

HOPING TO BE HELPFUL, HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

DEAR HELPFUL: Many readers wrote to point out that the problem "Dateless" is experiencing could be more about the idiosyncratic subscription rules on some dating websites than about the writer or the women he is contacting. Other experienced users shared their stories:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I can tell "Dateless" why he's not getting "thanks, but no thanks" notes from the women he contacts on the online dating service: Those women are most likely overwhelmed with responses.

Before I met my husband 10 years ago, I signed up on a dating site, then left the house to run some errands. When I came back a couple of hours later, I had 75 responses! I tried to answer all of them, but I kept getting more and more, so I finally gave up. I can only imagine how many responses women get today with online dating even more popular than it was then.

SETTLED DOWN IN ILLINOIS

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: How long does one have to wait before determining the person isn't interested or just hasn't had the chance to respond? Many sites offer a simple button push that sends a message saying you are not interested. It appears people are simply taking the easy way out without any concern for others. And unfortunately, this doesn't happen only in online dating.

DAVID IN ST. LOUIS

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'd like to suggest that "Dateless" consider that many people don't check their dating site often—or ever. I signed up on a site in August and stopped looking at it in October. Then I forgot my password and could never look again.

OVER IT IN TAMPA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Sadly for "Dateless," many of us women who are also attempting online dating have learned the hard way that any response can quickly encourage a stalker who emails us or sends instant messages relentlessly.

I consider myself to be a courteous person with Midwestern values, and I tried (initially) to politely respond to everyone one way or the other. It became exhausting because many of the men I sent a polite "no, thank you" to began demanding explanations, taking my reply as a "maybe" or insulting me for being stuck-up (and the communication quickly grew uglier from there).

So please tell "Dateless" that it's nothing personal—we're just trying to avoid drama.

PAM IN PHOENIX

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

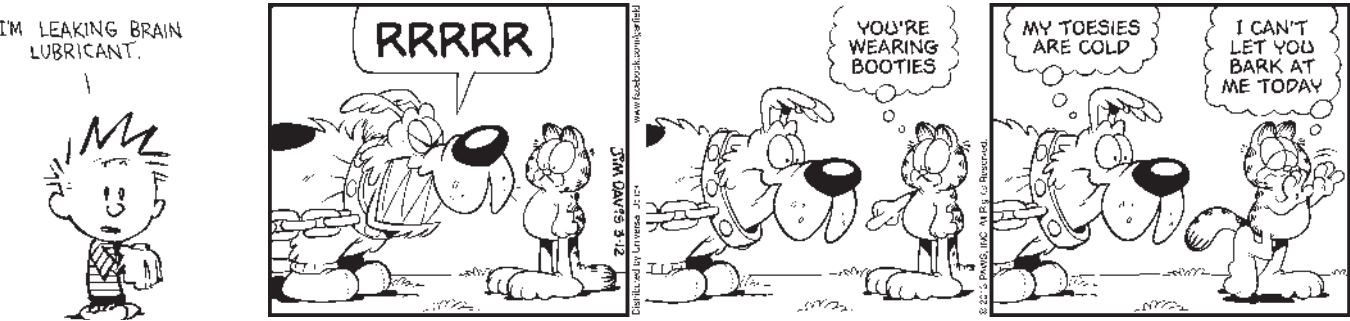
What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

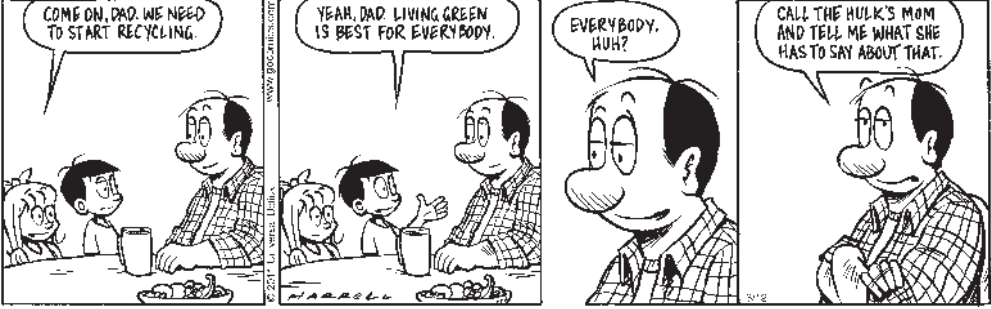
Calvin and Hobbes



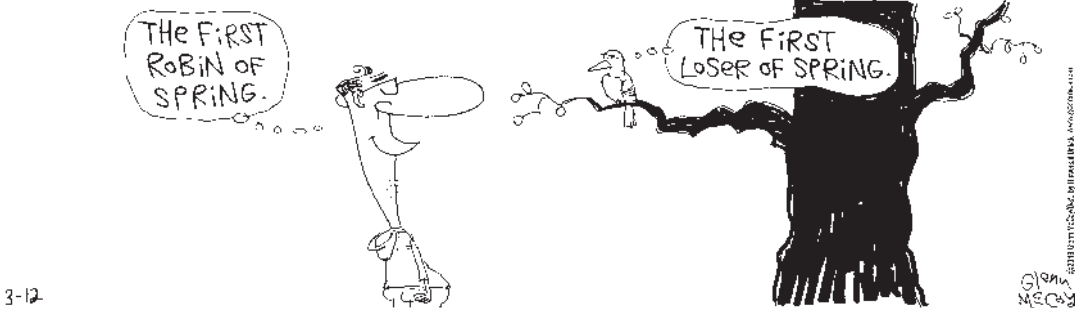
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The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hindu prince

5 Persian leader

9 Bigshot, for short

12 Verve

13 Horseback game

14 Tokyo's old name

15 Chamber of the heart

17 Born

18 Good-looking guy

19 Band-leader Xavier

21 Lucky roll of the dice

24 Arrived

25 Thing

26 Pots and pans and such

30 Chignon

31 Yours

32 Neither mate

33 Pavement

DOWN

1 Cleric's address (Abbr.)

2 Brewery product

3 One of the Brady Bunch

4 Country song?

5 Rotate

6 Pawn

7 Every last bit

8 Cornmeal creation

9 With a — (forcefully)

10 Concept

11 Bard

16 Scoot

18 Coal diggers' org.

21 Bro and sis

22 Needle case

23 Feuds

24 Hit on the head

26 Burn something

27 Lubricant

28 Bellow

29 Blunders

31 Dozens

34 First lady

35 Lead astray

37 Namely (Abbr.)

38 — over heels

39 Norway's capital

40 Unsigned (Abbr.)

41 Leftovers

44 Before

45 Shade tree

46 Felon's flight

47 Whatever number

Solution time: 21 mins.

O	B	I	T	S	A	P	A	S	P	S	
H	O	V	O	L	L	U	L	S	H	A	H
M	A	K	E	O	V	E	R	I	O	T	A
T	I	S	V	A	M	P	E	D			
O	C	E	A	N		V	E	T	O		
C	H	U	G		L	A	O	V	E	R	
I	A	H		O	A	L	O	H		P	I
P	O	P	O	V	E	R		L	I	C	E
D	U	R	F	S		F	O	N			
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M	E	M	E		E	V	I	S	A	G	E
N	A	P	E		D	A	Y		E	N	O

Yesterday's answer 3-12

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Aaron Eckhart, 45; Courtney B. Vance, 53; James Taylor, 65; Liza Minnelli, 67.

Happy Birthday: Impulsiveness will have an adverse effect on what you are trying to accomplish. Stick to your game plan and refuse to let anyone push or pressure you to act quickly. Focusing on getting out of debt and keeping things simple will lead to the glory you are looking for. Your numbers are 8, 17, 22, 25, 33, 38, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll see through an intentional trap. Calling attention to the way you feel and what you want to see happen will give you an edge. Explore the possibility by interacting more with an institution, government agency or an authority figure. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be careful while traveling or dealing with someone in a position of authority. Sharing information and experience will lead to greater equality. Take on personal responsibility that will ensure you have a say regarding your residence. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't share your thoughts or plans if you feel threatened. It's important to be prepared before you take the plunge. A charming talker must be dealt with carefully. Put greater emphasis on taking action instead of just talking about it. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Avoid sounding eager or self-assured. You may have an opportunity to advance, but if you stretch the truth about what you have to offer, you will end up falling short. Keep what you present simple and honest. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make changes that will speed up your task. It's how you apply your experience and knowledge that will make you competitive. A change of location or fixing up your residence to suit your current needs will pay off. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Discuss whatever is bothering you, even if it will cause a ruckus. Relieving stress will be more important and can make a difference between being taken advantage of and walking away. Do what's best for you and you'll find your way. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Change is inevitable. Embrace a challenge and voice your opinion. It's better to feel good about your future than to be caught in a no-win situation that will continue to fester. New beginnings will start with old goals. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Aggressive action will bring progressive results. Networking functions will allow you to build your business connections and offer your skills. Love is in the stars and a journey down a path with someone unique will bring you great joy. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Bide your time. Work on your presentation. Make the changes at home that will help you accomplish your goals. Focus inward and carefully plan the path you want to pursue. Don't be sidetracked by a jealous acquaintance. Embrace new beginnings. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Grab the ball and run. Use your skill and build the base you need to maintain your position. Don't let what someone else does lead to an impulsive move that will make someone you need on your side question your ability. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do your own thing and let your innovative imagination take you on a new journey. Greater possibilities are heading your way, but first you must get rid of the deadweight and excessive habits that have held you back in the past. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stick to facts. Make a suggestion and follow through. Put partnerships, contracts and money matters at the top of your list. Once you have a deal, you will be able to manipulate the outcome. Equality will lead to longevity. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are intense, honorable and aggressive. You strive to be your best.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	4			6				9	
2		1							3
	9		5	2	8				
		5				1			
6		2				9		8	
		7				2			
			2	9	7		6		
1						8		5	
	2			8			7		

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	8	4	7	5	1	9	3	6
6	9	5	3	8	4	7	2	1
1	3	7	9	6	2	8	4	5
5	1	8	6	3	7	2	9	4
4	7	9	2	1	5	3	6	8
3	2	6	8	4	9	1	5	7
8	6	1	5	9	3	4	7	2
9	5	2	4	7	8	6	1	3
7	4	3	1	2	6	5	8	9

Difficulty Level ★ 3/11

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE VANCOUVER WHITECAPS Solution: 4 letters

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T D Y A O O A A C T J R C D
O I M O N U U T S O A L A B G
R A I C D L V S T D S I A B E
S N L R O S T E R O R H N O O
S A L G A D O T R E C O S M G
T S E T I C K E T T Y K C A O
A S R F L A H P A A C A S E L
D I R E C T O M T I M E L T R
I S E A T S M O K P D E E P S
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Yesterday's Answer: Teflon

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Heat win 18th straight, roll past Pacers, 105-91

MIAMI (AP)—Mario Chalmers scored 26 points and Chris Bosh added 24 as the Miami Heat won their 18th straight game, easily topping the Indiana Pacers 105-91 on Sunday night.

The 18-game streak ties the seventh longest in NBA history, and is the league's best since the Boston Celtics won 19 straight during the 2008-09 season. Miami will try for No. 19 when it hosts Atlanta on Tuesday night.

The win also gave Miami (47-14) a victory over every NBA team this season. The Heat lost both previous meetings with Indiana.

Dwyane Wade scored 23 points for the Heat, who controlled the game despite a season-low 13 points from LeBron James. Ray Allen added 11 for Miami.

David West scored 17 of his 24 points in the first half for the Pacers, who fell nine games behind Miami in the Eastern Conference standings. Roy Hibbert scored 15, D.J. Augustin had 14 and Paul George scored 10 for Indiana.

Raptors 100, Cavaliers 96

In Toronto, Amir Johnson scored 17 points and matched his career high with 16 rebounds, and Alan Anderson scored 10 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter.

Cavaliers star guard Kyrie Irving was knocked out by an apparent shoulder injury late in the third quarter as Cleveland lost for the fourth time in five games.

Irving was hurt when he collided with Toronto rookie Jonas Valanciunas on a baseline drive with 2:04 left in the third. He shot the resulting free throws one-handed. Irving made the first but missed the second before walking off and heading to the locker room. He finished with 12 points.

Irving missed 11 games between Nov. 21 and Dec. 8 with a broken finger. He also sat out three games between Feb. 26 and March 1 with a sore right knee.

Lakers 90, Bulls 81

In Los Angeles, Dwight Howard

scored 16 points and grabbed 21 rebounds, Kobe Bryant chipped in with 19 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for Los Angeles.

The Lakers improved their win-loss record to 33-31, the first time this season they have been two games over .500. They also moved one-half game ahead of the Utah Jazz and into sole possession of the No. 8 and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

The Lakers led almost throughout, only briefly falling behind by two points in the second quarter, and led by as many as 18 in the third period.

Nate Robinson led the Bulls with 19 points, and Joakim Noah had 18 points and 17 rebounds.

Howard made 8 of 14 shots from the floor but missed all five free throws. His 21 rebounds marked the fourth time this season he's grabbed at least 20.

Thunder 91, Celtics 79

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Russell Westbrook scored 15 points and the Thunder stretched their winning streak to five games.

The Thunder limited Boston to 25 percent shooting in the second half after the Celtics shot 51 percent in the first. Oklahoma City used an 11-2 run at the start of the fourth quarter to close it out.

The Celtics had pulled within 68-65 after three quarters before going without a basket for the first 5 minutes of the fourth, and they never could recover.

Paul Pierce had 20 points to lead Boston, which had its own run of five straight wins broken. Kevin Garnett chipped in 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Magic 99, 76ers 91

In Orlando, Florida, Jameer Nelson had 24 points and 10 assists, and Nik Vucevic added 14 points and 17 rebounds. The win ended the Magic's seven-game home losing streak, their longest skid in Orlando since 2003-04.

Aron Afflalo and Tobias Harris added 17 and 15 points, respectively. The double-double was the 35th of the season for Vucevic.



Miami Heat's Mario Chalmers (15) celebrates after scoring a three-pointer against the Indiana Pacers during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Sunday, March 10, 2013.

Thaddeus Young had 26 points and 12 rebounds for the Sixers, followed by Damien Wilkins with 16 points in his first start of the season.

Philadelphia has dropped five straight and 13 in a row on the road.

Hornets 98, Trail Blazers 96

In New Orleans, Ryan Anderson capped a 20-point performance with a layup as he was fouled with 1.8 seconds left, and the Hornets snapped a three-game skid.

Anderson also hit a 3 with 15.6 seconds left that gave the Hornets a 95-93 lead, but Portland rookie Damian Lillard reached the 20-point mark for a

sixth straight game by draining a 3 with 11.2 seconds left.

Greivis Vasquez, who also had 20 points, then dribbled out of traffic along the perimeter and found Anderson inside for the winning bucket.

Anthony Davis had 18 points and 10 rebounds for New Orleans.

Wesley Matthews scored 24 points and LaMarcus Aldridge 16 for Portland, which fell three games behind the Los Angeles Lakers for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Mavericks 100, Timberwolves 77

In Minneapolis, Vince Carter had 22 points and nine rebounds

and Dirk Nowitzki scored 16 points for Dallas.

Brandan Wright added 13 points and seven rebounds for the Mavericks, who have won three straight and four of their last five in a last-ditch push for the playoffs. They entered the day in 11th place in the West, three games out of the eighth spot.

Derrick Williams had 18 points and nine rebounds for the lethargic Timberwolves, who had no energy on the second night of a tough back-to-back that started in Denver. J.J. Barea scored 16 points, but Minnesota's bench managed just six other points. The Wolves are 6-25 since Kevin Love broke his hand for the second time on Jan. 8.

Bucks 115, Kings 113

In Sacramento, California, Monta Ellis had 29 points and nine assists and the Bucks survived a late comeback by the Kings to earn their second straight victory and sixth in seven games. Before the current hot streak, Milwaukee had dropped nine of 11 games.

Mike Dunleavy made four 3-pointers and scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half. Brandon Jennings also scored 16 points and had eight assists for Milwaukee.

Ellis had 10 fourth-quarter points for the Bucks, who were outscored 33-30 in the period.

DeMarcus Cousins, who was ejected in the third quarter, had 24 points and 10 rebounds for the Kings. Tyreke Evans had 20 points and Jason Thompson had 18 points and eight rebounds. Isaiah Thomas had 14 points and nine assists.

Clippers 129, Pistons 97

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin led seven players in double figures with 22 points on 9 of 12 shooting and the Clippers beat the Pistons for their 10th win in 13 games.

Chris Paul had 20 points and 14 assists, and Caron Butler added 15 points before leaving in the third quarter with a left elbow contusion. Matt Barnes had 16 points, DeAndre Jordan added 13 points and seven rebounds, Willie Green 11 points and Chauncey Billups 10 points.

The Clippers set season highs for points scored and shooting percentage (62) while leading the entire game. Their old high of 125 points came in a win over the Lakers last month.

Jose Calderon was one of five Pistons in double figures with 18 points as they lost their fifth in a row overall, fourth straight to the Clippers, and fell to 0-11 on the road against Western Conference opponents.

Pistons coach Lawrence Frank missed his third straight game because of a family matter. Assistant Brian Hill, who is running the team, said he doesn't expect Frank back for the remainder of the four-game trip.

Red Sox shut down Ortiz with sore heel, beat Rays



**P O R T
C H A R -
LOTTE, Fla.**

(AP)—David Ortiz will be shut down for several days of spring training because of sore left heel, and the Boston Red Sox are hoping the break from baseball activities won't prevent the slugging designated hitter from being ready for opening day.

Manager John Farrell made the announcement after Sunday's 6-2 exhibition victory over the Tampa Bay Rays. He expects Ortiz to be out for five to seven days because of inflammation revealed by MRI tests.

"It's separate from any kind of previous issues that he dealt with. It's in the bone-tendon juncture, where he's feeling the inflammation," Farrell said.

"As a result, we're going to shut him down for a few days here to let that quiet down completely before we initiate any kind of baseball activities after that," he said.

The manager stopped short of calling it a setback for the eight-time All-Star, who is still making his way back from a strained right Achilles tendon that limited him to 90 games last season.

"Compared to where he was

a year ago, we feel like there's progress being made. There's no question about that," Farrell said. "Yet he's dealing with an issue, and we've got to give it time to clear up."

MRI tests were performed on both of Ortiz's heels on Saturday. Farrell is cautiously optimistic that sitting out up to a week affect Ortiz's status for the start of the regular season.

"We're three weeks away. He's going to need at-bats," the manager said. "We're not foregoing opening day right now, but we're starting to get into an area where—depending on

how many days we need to shut him down—it's going to have a direct bearing on where we are come opening day."

The encouraging news for the Ortiz and the Red Sox is the soreness he's experienced in both heels is in a boney area—not the Achilles tendon.

"I think any time we can give some assurance that there's no re-injury, there's no further damage of any kind, that's got to give some peace of mind," Farrell said. "Yet the frustration exists because of not being on the field."

David Ross hit a three-run

homer off Tampa Bay starter Matt Moore, and John Lackey allowed two runs and four hits in 3 2-3 innings to pace Sunday's victory.

Jeremy Hazelbaker and Pedro Ciriaco also drove in runs for the Red Sox. Yunel Escobar had an RBI infield single and Evan Longoria added a sacrifice fly off Lackey.

Meanwhile, Rays owner Stuart Sternberg arrived in camp and commented on several topics, including David Price's future, sagging attendance and his expectations for the upcoming season.

"I feel really good," Sternberg said about several offseason moves aimed at improving a roster that won 90 games, yet finished third in the AL East last season. "We left no stone unturned. We had a plan coming in when the offseason started and I think we nailed it pretty well."

Besides acquiring Escobar in a trade, the Rays also signed first baseman James Loney and second baseman Kelly Johnson to shore up the infield. Pitchers James Shields and Wade Davis were dealt to Kansas City in a deal that brought the Rays several highly regarded minor league prospects, including outfielder Wil Myers.

Woods wins another World Championship at Doral



DORAL, Fla. (AP)—That red shirt is starting to look ruthless on Sunday again.

One year after Tiger Woods hobbled off the Blue Monster, he picked up the pace in his march to the Masters. Woods delivered two quick birdies to take the drama out of Doral, and two late bogeys only made his victory in the Cadillac Championship seem closer than it really was.

Woods had full control of his game and never let anyone get closer than three shots until he had locked up his 17th World Golf Championship title. With a conservative bogey that didn't matter on the final hole, he closed with a 1-under 71.

For the first time in five years, Woods has two wins before the Masters.

And both of them were dominant.

"That's how I know I can play," Woods said. "That's the thing. To be able to bring it out a couple times so far this year—and then be able to close and get the Ws on top of that—that's nice. Any time I can win prior to Augusta, it always feels good."

And to think it was one year ago Sunday that Woods withdrew after 11 holes in the final round at Doral because of tightness in his left Achilles tendon, the same injury that had cost him to sit out most of the previous summer. It created uncertainty about his health and whether he could ever get his game back.

False alarm.

Woods now has five wins in the last year, the most of anyone in the world, and he can return to No. 1 with a win at Bay Hill in two weeks.

He won by two shots over Steve Stricker, who might want to claim a share of this trophy.

Woods ran into Stricker on the putting green Wednesday afternoon, and in a 45-minute session, Stricker helped him with his posture over putts. Woods left feeling as good as he did

at Torrey Pines, where he won by four shots. And it showed. Woods made 27 birdies this week, one short of his personal best on the PGA Tour, and he took the fewest putts (100) over 72 holes in any tour event.

"Thank you to Steve for the putting lesson," Woods said at the trophy presentation. "It was one of those weeks where I felt pretty good about how I was playing, made a few putts and got it rolling."

Stricker, playing a part-time schedule, picked up his second runner-up finish in just three starts. He closed with a 68, and had no regrets about offering Woods some help.

"At times you kick yourself," Stricker said with a laugh. "He's a good friend. We talk a lot about putting. It's good to see him playing well."

Asked if he would have won without that chance meeting with Stricker, Woods hedged a little.

"I would like to say I probably would have, but ..." he said with a smile. "I've been putting at home and it just still hadn't felt right. I still was a little bit off. ... He basically got me in the same position that I was at Torrey. So once he put me in there where I felt comfortable, I said, 'Well, this is not too foreign. This is what I was a month or so ago.' And I started rolling it and it felt really, really good."

The Masters is a month away, and Woods is sure to be the favorite.

"Majors and World Golf Championships are the best because you know you are playing against the best players," Woods said. "That's what makes wins like this special. That's why I love to compete."

Rory McIlroy, the No. 1 player in the world, showed signs of recovering from his rough start to the season. He had a 65 and tied for eighth.

Graeme McDowell, who started the final round four shots behind, made a birdie on the opening hole, but never got any closer. McDowell had third place to himself until he went



Tiger Woods holds the Gene Sarazen Cup for winning the Cadillac Championship golf tournament on Sunday, March 10, 2013, in Doral, Fla.

for the green on the 18th hole and found the water. He made double bogey, shot 72 and fell into a four-way tie for third that cost him \$172,500.

Phil Mickelson (71), Sergio Garcia (69) and Adam Scott (64) also tied for third.

Woods improved to 41-2 on the PGA Tour when he had the outright lead going into the final round, the last two wins with McDowell at his side. Woods last won while ahead at Bay Hill a year ago.

"The way Tiger was playing, I was always in chase mode," McDowell said. "He was always going to be a tough guy to catch. Fair play to him. He

played fantastic golf the last couple of days."

Woods finished minus 19 at 269 and earned \$1.5 million in winning this World Golf Championship for the seventh time.

McIlroy's week ended on a happy note.

Not only did he finish the tournament, he might have turned the corner with a bogey-free 65. McIlroy opened with a 7-iron into 18 feet for eagle, which he called one of the best shots he hit. He shot a 32 on the back nine for a round that surprised him considering how far away he felt when he arrived at Doral.

"Just goes to show, it's not as far away as you think," McIlroy

said. "That's been one of my problems. I always think when I'm playing bad that it's further away than it is. That's just where I have to stay patient ... and know that if I put in the hard work, that the results will bear fruit. Whether that's sooner or later, it doesn't really matter."

McIlroy said he won't add a tournament the next two weeks, returning at the Houston Open before going to the Masters. He is signed up for the member-guest a week from Monday at The Medalist Club, presumably as the guest of former NBA great Michael Jordan.

"He's asked me, so depending on what my schedule is

and where I have to be ... we'll see," he said.

Scott had the low round of the tournament with eight birdies in his round of 64.

That's what McDowell, Mickelson and Stricker would have needed to have any chance of catching Woods. As he did early in third round, McDowell gave it his best shot, only to have Woods answer on every occasion.

McDowell two-putted for birdie on the par-5 opening hole as Woods blasted a shot from a buried lie at the back of the green well past the pin and off the green. He had to chip close just to save par. McDowell hit his approach on the second hole to 7 feet and looked as if he might pick up another shot.

In what could have been the most significant putt Woods made, he buried an 18-footer for birdie.

"It was important to make that," Woods said.

That's how it went all weekend. Woods never gave anyone a chance, and he didn't give anyone much hope. His lead was back to four shots, he hit an 8-iron to 4 feet on the par-3 fourth hole, and no one seriously challenged him the rest of the way.

Mickelson hit a 200-yard shot into the breeze and over the water to a foot for a tap-in birdie on the par-5 eighth to get within four shots with 10 holes to play. He missed far too many short putts, however, making bogey on the ninth and 11th holes to fall too far back to matter.

That allowed another easy walk up the 18th hole for Woods to collect another WGC title, another seven-figure check, and offer another reminder that he is closer than ever to getting back to the top of golf.

Woods now has won more than \$24 million in the WGCs alone since the series began in 1999, winning 42 percent of the tournaments. This was his 76th career win on tour, leaving him six short of the record 82 wins by Sam Snead. He now has more wins than Mickelson and Vijay Singh combined.

PHOENIX (AP)—Running out of outs, Adam Jones and the United States suddenly broke loose and saved themselves from a humbling loss.

Now, thanks to a fast finish, they're heading to Miami for the next round of the World Baseball Classic.

Jones doubled in the tying and go-ahead runs in the eighth inning. Eric Hosmer hit a three-run double in the ninth and the U.S. scored seven times in the last two innings to beat Canada 9-4 on Sunday.

"Words can't describe it," Hosmer said, recalling how he felt standing on second base after his big hit. "It is hard to hold your emotions right there. It is just an unbelievable feeling and when you hear the crowd chant 'USA' and the other crowd

Jones, Hosmer lead US past Canada, move up in WBC

chanting 'Canada,' it is an unbelievable experience."

The winner of the game moved on, the loser went home. And for a long while, it didn't look good for manager Joe Torre's team.

"It would have been embarrassing," second baseman Brandon Phillips said. "I would have been embarrassed. USA, this is where baseball started and we represent our country. I just feel that if we had lost, we didn't do our job. We have to go out there and try to be the first American team to win the WBC. That is our goal."

The U.S. trailed 3-2 after seven innings before rallying. Team USA and Italy each went 2-1 and advanced in Group D while Canada and Mexico went

1-2 and were eliminated.

"We believed in ourselves and turned it around," Phillips said, "and that is a beautiful thing."

Jones and Hosmer both had a rough week at the plate but came through with the United States on the brink of defeat. Jones' hit was his second in nine at-bats. Hosmer, a late replacement on the U.S. roster for injured Matt Teixeira, was 3 for 13.

Torre said the U.S. lineup had too much talent not to finally come through.

"Those two balls that were hit, both Jones and Hosmer, were about as hard as you'll ever see," Torre said, "because I think both

times the center fielder thought he had a shot at it, and he just had no chance. That ball just took off over their heads. They creamed those."

Phillips, a three-time Gold Glove winner, also contributed. He made a diving stop to prevent Canada from tying it in the eighth, then doubled and scored in the ninth.

Heath Bell pitched a scoreless seventh for the win. Jimmy Henderson took the loss.

Canada's Michael Saunders, of the Seattle Mariners, hit a two-run homer off starter Derek Holland and was chosen the Group D MVP, going 8 for 11 in the tournament with seven RBIs.

"It's an honor," Saunders said, "but it's really kind of a sour taste in my mouth right now."

Canada manager Ernie Whitt called Saunders "an up-and-coming outfielder that's going to be a superstar."

The United States won Group D, taking the tiebreaker thanks to its 6-2 victory over the Italian squad. The U.S. plays Group C runner-up Puerto Rico on Tuesday night in Miami. Italy faces the Dominican Republic, which went 3-0 to win Group C.

David Wright, whose grand slam lifted the U.S. past Italy on Saturday night, doubled and walked three times. Ben Zobrist had three hits, none of which left the infield.

Canada, coming off a 10-3 win over Mexico that featured a bruising ninth-inning brawl, finished 1-2. The Canadians have not made it out of the first round in any of the three WBCs.

They looked in great shape much of the afternoon against the United States, which was looking to avoid its worst showing ever in the tournament. The Americans made it to the second round in 2006 and the semi-finals in 2009.

For the third straight game, the U.S. fell behind early.

Justin Morneau, 8 for 12 in the tournament for Canada, doubled to start the second, then Saunders hit Holland's 1-0 pitch into the bullpen down the right-field line to make it 2-0.

The U.S. tied it with two runs in the fourth, one unearned.



Outlawz pulls upset, Try Luck rolls off another strong start

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Oceanside Bar & Grill's Outlaws upset Sand's top-ranked Juvy Predators, 9-8, at home, while Jonny's Bar & Grill's five-time champions Try Luck remains the cream above the crop as the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 2013 Winter-Summer Bud Light Open Dart League's respective A Division and Ladies League logged their third round of action last Monday.

Juvy Predators remains at the helm of the A Division by three games with a 26-15 win-loss card as the Outlawz (27-24) bumped up into the middle of the pack.

In other results, SOS Bar & Grill's second-ranked Mixblood Shooters (30-21) routed its sister-team Sabalu (16-35), 12-5, on the road; Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's DJ Fish (29-22) overcame Sand's Juvy 101 Proofers (21-30), 9-8, on road; and Jonny's Sakude II (2-24) defeated Assassins (18-22), 10-7, on the road.

Tonight, the 101 Proofer host the Assassins, MixBlood hails over the Outlaws, Sakude II waves in Sabalu, and DJ Fish hosts Juvy Predators.

Try Luck rolled over SOS' Avengers (10-35), 12-3 at home to improve to a 36-9 slate and holds a three-game lead on its sister-rival



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oceanside Bar & Grill's Outlaws defeated Sand's top-ranked Juvy Predators, 9-8, at home in last week's A Division of the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 2013 Winter-Summer Bud Light Open Dart League.

Momes'I Mei (33-12).

The latter group downed The Waterfront's Mixed Nuts (16-29), 9-6 at home, while other results include Joe's Steakhouse's Just Like Dat (31-14) upending Oceanside's G-Side

Shooters (23-22), 11-4, at home and Bammy's Kitty Kats (18-27) reigned supreme at home over Joe's Daffodils (13-32), 8-7.

Tonight Just Like Dat sets up for Try Luck; Mixed NBUts hosts the Kitty

Kats; the Avengers invite in Momes'I Mei; and the G-Side Shooters welcome the Daffodils.

Contact Pacific Amusement's Warlee Ellama at 233-4397 for more information.

LEWIE

From Page 28

Tenorio was 26th overall among more than 50 finishers and had split times of 41:25 in the 1.5-kilometer swim leg in the waters of Micro Beach, 2:12:13 in the 32K bike race, and 1:20:19 in the 12K run.

Joining Tenorio in the age group champions list were Charlie Epperson, De Un Den, Aleksandr Dorovskikh, Charlie Sendin, David Spelger, David Desantis, Manny Sitcon, Allan Moore, and G.L. Brown.

Epperson was the first non-pro finisher in the weekend event and also topped the 35 to 39 age group. He completed the tough race in 3:18:07 with split times of 26:44, 1:51:58, and

59:25. Epperson was the lone entry on his age group to finish the bike race under two hours and the run leg under one hour. He was also the only one in his division to complete the race under four hours, as runner-up William Escobar posted 4:55:55 and Brian Flaherty and Brad Ruzsala recorded 5:47:02 and 6:07:04, respectively.

Sendin also broke the four-hour barrier with his 3:49:22 (39:22, 2:02:19, and 1:07:41) to win the 30 to 34 age group against Guam's Michael Stewart (4:15), Japan's Keisuke Hirano (4:31:08), and the Philippines' Hector Yuzon (5:16:13) and Rafael Jose Zamora (5:16:13).

Dorovskikh was the second overall non-pro finisher and reigned in the 25 to 29 age group after checking in at the

3:19:51 mark. He was nearly 50 minutes ahead of Japan's Arikasa Yoshinori (4:07:53) and more than one hour faster than aipan's Eric Coooke (5:39:17) and another Japanese bet, Ozeki Junichi (5:50:32).

Spelger of the U.S. beat hometown bet Tyce Mister in the 45 to 49 age group with the former timing in at 3:50:59 against the latter's 4:11:33. Completing the field were Tetsuya Sugimori (4:19:30), Kenji Sakurai (4:33:18), Toshihisa Abe (4:55:31), and Noel Altamirano (5:02:27).

In the 50 to 54 age group, Desantis defeated six others after logging 3:50:59. He prevailed over Mark Walters (4:01:07), Masahito Animochi (4:05:15), Makoto Kayatama (4:55:43), Shiro Sato (5:04:23), Florence Anto-

nio (5:15:45), and Stephen Cochran (6:00:43).

Sitchon (5:36:08/55 to 59 age group), Moore (4:41:42/60 to 64), Brown (6:11:55/65 to 69), and De Un Den (3:27:52/20 to 24) were the lone entry in their respective division.

Three female participants also got outright first place with Ayshalynn Perez (4:55:59) winning in the 20 to 24 division, Peri Gray (3:45:02) ruling the 30 to 34 category, and Erin Johnson (5:33:20) topping the 35 to 39 age group. Saipan's Kaitlon Mattos completed the winners circle in the women's division after her 5:19:50 defeated the 5:40:39 of Japan's Kyoko Majima.

Meanwhile, results of the relay races and sports course will be reported later this week.

MAPLAS

From Page 28

natown won over Maplas by 5 points, 62-57, Maplas defeated the Sexy Boys by three, 54-51, and the Sexy Boys also took a 3-point victory over Chinatown, 70-67.

While Maplas is assured of making it to the next round even if it loses the fight for the two automatic semis berths, the ICS Shooters are in danger of joining Servitek (1-6) and LD Prime (1-7) to the showers. The ICS Shooters fell to a 3-4 record for seventh place in the team standings and only the No. 2 to 6

finishers after the round-robin elimination will move to the second round. To keep its hopes alive, the ICS Shooters must prevail in its last two matches and hope that Susupe (3-5) and JWS (2-4) would not get into win No. 4.

The ICS Shooters seemed headed for a heartbreaker against Maplas when the former was held to two field goals in the first period, allowing the latter to take a 10-5 lead. The ICS Shooters then picked up its scoring in the second period, making 19 points for a precarious 24-23 halftime advantage.

However, the ICS Shooters' hold on the lead was short-lived, as the mo-

ment Maplas played pressure defense, the former was rattled and faded away. Maplas complemented its tight defense with a balance offense to build a double-digit lead, 50-39, heading into the final quarter.

The ICS Shooters continued to struggle against Maplas' scramble defense in the fourth and failed to launch a big comeback, putting the former's season in jeopardy.

Dennis Morales paced Maplas with his 11 points. He was the lone double-figure scorer for Maplas, however six of his teammates scored at least 6 points apiece. Webby Guntar was also the lone

player on the ICS Shooters' side to nail twin digits with his 15 and was backed only by Neil Espinosa and Harris Enriquez, who combined for 13 markers. Myler David added 8, but was saddled by foul trouble and scored 4 points when the game was already decided.

Maplas La Mani 62 – Morales 11, Aguilar 8, Surla 8, Anicete 8, M. Usi 7, Odicta 7, Rivera 6, San Nicolas 4.

ICS Shooters 50 – Guntar 15, David 8, Espinosa 7, Enriquez 6, Tala 4, R. Lansang 4, Corotan 2, Mallari 1.

Scoring by quarters: 10-5, 23-24, 50-39, 62-50.

4 NAMED

From Page 28

ing in various competitions last month.

The Saipan International School student helped his team finish runner-up in the NMIVA Sunset League that featured eight squads in a four-person co-ed beach volleyball format. Next up for McCullough-Stearns was the For the Love of Volleyball tournament where he and Jazz Roskow placed second.

McCullough-Stearns suited up for this third event of the month via the 2013 Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Youth Doubles Tournament and he and teammate Wilton Laniyo bested 11 other teams in the boys U18 division.

Then for his fourth straight tournament in February, McCullough-Stearns went to Guam to play against the pros in the Marianas Cup Pro-Am and finished fifth with his partner. The off-

island event drew 30 teams composed of players from the host, CNMI, Japan, Canada, California, and Hawaii.

Mister also joined the Pro-Am tournament in Guam and placed fourth and earlier played in the For the Love of Volleyball and won the men's division crown. These twin achievements earned the many-time member of the CNMI Beach Volleyball Team the NMASA award for February.

Lizama missed a podium finish in the

For the Love of Volleyball tournament, but made good account of herself in two other competitions. She and partner Knohlynn Gechig ruled the girls junior division of the 2013 Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Youth Doubles Tournament, giving Lizama her second straight crown in the same event.

Before the Marianas Cup, Lizama organized a grass volleyball competition and went on to win the girls tiara with teammate Hannah Campos.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

CADILLAC CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

DORAL, Florida (AP)—Scores Saturday from the Cadillac Championship, a World Golf Championship at the 7,334-yard, par-72 Trump Doral Golf Club and Resort:

FINAL ROUND

Tiger Woods (550), \$1,500,000	66-65-67-71-269
Steve Stricker (315), \$880,000	67-67-69-68-271
Sergio Garcia (140), \$417,500	66-72-67-69-274
Graeme McDowell (140), \$417,500	66-67-69-72-274
Phil Mickelson (140), \$417,500	67-67-69-71-274
Adam Scott (140), \$417,500	72-70-68-64-274
Keegan Bradley (95), \$240,000	68-68-69-71-276
Peter Hanson (81), \$163,750	67-71-70-70-278
Rory McIlroy (81), \$163,750	73-69-71-65-278
Justin Rose (81), \$163,750	68-72-70-68-278
Michael Thompson (81), \$163,750	69-69-67-73-278
Jason Dufner (64), \$113,750	69-69-69-72-279
Charles Howell III (64), \$113,750	68-71-69-71-279
Dustin Johnson (64), \$113,750	68-69-70-72-279
Richard Sterne, \$113,750	70-71-71-67-279
Freddie Jacobson (56), \$98,000	66-69-71-74-280
Charl Schwartzel (56), \$98,000	71-65-69-75-280
Nicolas Colsearts (53), \$93,000	71-71-67-72-281
Bubba Watson (53), \$93,000	66-69-71-75-281
Alexander Noren, \$88,000	69-70-72-71-282
John Senden (50), \$88,000	69-69-70-74-282
Webb Simpson (50), \$88,000	72-67-71-72-282
Scott Jamieson, \$83,000	70-69-72-72-283
Matteo Manassero, \$83,000	71-71-75-66-283
Hunter Mahan (45), \$79,000	67-72-71-74-284
Scott Piercy (45), \$79,000	70-73-69-72-284
Lee Westwood (45), \$79,000	73-69-71-71-284
Ernie Els (41), \$75,000	73-69-72-71-285
Russell Henley (41), \$75,000	70-72-70-73-285
John Huh (41), \$75,000	71-67-71-76-285
Francesco Molinari, \$75,000	78-66-72-69-285
Ian Poulter (41), \$75,000	68-70-72-75-285
Jason Day (38), \$71,500	74-66-75-71-286
Louis Oosthuizen (38), \$71,500	70-75-69-72-286
Rickie Fowler (35), \$68,500	69-69-71-78-287
Jim Furyk (35), \$68,500	72-70-72-73-287
Brian Gay (35), \$68,500	70-76-69-72-287
Matt Kuchar (35), \$68,500	72-72-72-71-287
Padraig Harrington (31), \$64,500	76-72-68-72-288
David Lynn (31), \$64,500	71-70-76-71-288
Marcel Siem, \$64,500	75-73-70-70-288
Bo Van Pelt (31), \$64,500	68-75-71-74-288
Luke Donald (27), \$60,500	70-76-71-72-289
Gonzalo Fdez-Castano, \$60,500	72-70-73-74-289
Bill Haas (27), \$60,500	72-73-72-72-289
Chris Wood, \$60,500	71-74-71-73-289
Zach Johnson (24), \$57,500	71-67-77-75-290
Geoff Ogilvy (24), \$57,500	69-74-73-74-290
Branden Grace, \$54,500	73-74-72-72-291
Martin Kaymer (21), \$54,500	76-68-73-74-291
Carl Pettersson (21), \$54,500	71-75-71-74-291
Nick Watney (21), \$54,500	69-71-77-74-291
George Coetzee, \$50,600	70-69-73-80-292
Stephen Gallacher, \$50,600	74-75-69-74-292
Ryan Moore (16), \$50,600	73-71-72-76-292
Thorbjorn Olesen, \$50,600	75-75-70-72-292
Thaworn Wiratchant, \$50,600	69-69-77-77-292
Mike Hendry, \$48,750	72-66-78-77-293
Paul Lawrie, \$48,750	78-73-72-70-293
Tim Clark (10), \$47,500	72-73-71-79-295
Marcus Fraser, \$47,500	73-72-77-73-295
John Merrick (10), \$47,500	75-72-72-76-295
Rafael Cabrera Bello, \$46,250	71-74-76-78-299
Jamie Donaldson, \$46,250	72-77-76-74-299
Robert Garrigus (6), \$45,500	75-75-74-76-300

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HANMI

From Page 28

tardo@marianaresort.com or call Mariana Resort & Spa at 1.670.322.0770.

The event will also feature the 1st Annual Delta Fly Away Raffle feature a round trip ticket to any Delta Air Lines destination. Raffle tickets will be sold at the grounds for only \$1.

Teams of four racers (three men and one woman) and a pit manager can now register for \$250/team. A valid driver's license is required. The team captain must also attend a mandatory orientation meeting on April 5, 2013.

On race day, the track will be open for practice at 8:30am, with the opening ceremony scheduled for 10am. In a single-elimination format, the first qualifying round will begin at 10:30am, followed by consolation matches and then the second qualifying round. The final round will pit the top four teams against each other.

For race registration forms or to become a race sponsor, contact Lito Pardulan at lito.pardulan@marianaresort.com or 989.1956, or contact Mamoru Watanabe at watanabe@tasitours.com or 1.60.287.7143.

This year's sponsors also include Mobil, DFS Galleria, Triple J Five Start Wholesale Foods, Coca-Cola, Foremost, Japan Saipan Travel Association, and Tasi Tours. **(HANMI)**

Swim Leg of 2013 XTERRA Saipan

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Saipan Swim Club's Victoria Chentsova heads to her second lap in the 1.5-kilometer swim race in the waters off Micro Beach during last Saturday's 2013 XTERRA Saipan Championships.



XTERRA Saipan first-timer Eric Cooke completes the first lap of the swim leg.



Australia's Ben Allen removes his swim cap and goggles as he heads to the swim-bike transition area, while Scotland's Rory Downie chases him.



Saipan's Derek Chambers head to the swim-bike transition area.



Swimmers gets ready to move out of the water for the second lap of the swim leg.



Spectators watch United Kingdom's Daz Parker heads for the second lap of the swim race.



Swimmers plunge into the waters off Micro Beach.



Saipan Swim Club's Lennosuke Suzuki shows his XTERRA sticker before plunging into the water.

South Africa's Bradley Weiss leads Switzerland's Olivier Marceau as they go for the second and final lap of the swim race.



Former Saipan pro Mieke Carey, right, smiles as the crowd eggs her on her way to the second lap of the swim race.





Heat win 18th straight, roll past Pacers, 105-91

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Woods wins another World Championship at Doral

PAGE 25



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013

Maplas advances in DLX/Anchor Strong caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Maplas La Mani marched into the next round of the Division B of the 2013 DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League after downing the ICS Shooters, 62-50, last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The win also kept Maplas in contention for the remaining automatic semis slot in the 10-team field, as it now holds 5-3

record. Division leader and undefeated Adobo (7-0) took the first outright semis seat and Maplas will battle Sexy Boys and Chinatown, who own similar 6-3 slates, for the last automatic semis ticket.

Maplas has one more game left and was leading its rained-out game against JWS last week, 54-49, 9:33 left in the fourth. A win over JWS will put Maplas in a tie for second place with the Sexy Boys and Chinatown and the owner of the last outright semis spot will be decided by points system. Chi-

See MAPLAS on Page 26



GREG MORETTI

Saipan's Lewie Tenorio fights through the heat on the backside of Mt. Tapochao during last Saturday's 2013 XTERRA Saipan Championships.

Back-to-back for Lewie

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan's Lewie Tenorio notched his second straight age group victory in the 2013 XTERRA Saipan Championship, finishing last Saturday's race way ahead of his closest pursuer.

Tenorio, who won the 40 to 44 age group of last year's race by only one minute and three seconds against Japan's Nobuhiro Kozumi, this time came at the finish line at the American Memorial Park about 17 minutes ahead of his rival after clocking in at 4:13:57.



Guam's Mark Cruz was a distant second with his 4:30:46, while Saipan's Peter Prestly rounded out the Top 3 after submitting 5:51:30.

See LEWIE on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Maplas La Mani's Josephus Aguilar pulls up for a shot against ICS Shooters' Neil Espinosa, left, during the third quarter of their game in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.



Tammy



Mister

4 named February's best

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four athletes were named February's top athletes after their impressive performance in separate tournaments last month.

Swimmer Miku Tammy and volleyball player Clay McCullough-Stearns were voted as NMASA/TSL Foundation Athletes of the Month, while Tyce Mister and Chenny Lizama were named Male and Female Athletes of the Month.

Ten-year-old Tammy was cited for her record-breaking swim in a Northern

Mariana Islands Swimming Federation-sanctioned meet last Feb. 6 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool. The Tsunami Saipan swimmer timed in at 19:41.53 in the 800m freestyle to eclipse the 12:22.78 Saipan Swim Club's Amanda Johnson recorded on April 28, 2001 in the girls 9 to 10 age group. Tammy's time is also faster than the girls 11 to 12 mark (10:51.15) that Myana Welch logged in November 2001.

McCullough-Stearns, winner of the 2012 NMASA/TSL Foundation Male Student Athlete of the Year, earned another recognition for his consistent plac-

See 4 NAMED on Page 26



McCullough-Stearns



Lizama

HANMI sets Budweiser Go Kart Championship

» Food vendors invited to join food fair

Gentlemen, start your engines!

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands has set the Inaugural Budweiser Go Kart Championship for April 6, 2013 at the Mariana Seaside Circuit.

The following cash prizes will be awarded: \$2,000 for 1st place, \$1,000 for 2nd place, and \$500 for 3rd place.

Food vendors are invited to join the fundraising food fair at the grounds on race day. Food vendor registration is free, but twenty percent commission of all food sales will be contributed to the HANMI Charity Fund.



For \$20, food vendors will also be able to join the 1st Annual Angus Beef BBQ Sandwich Contest, which will award \$200 for 1st place, \$100 for 2nd place, and \$50 for 3rd place.

To register as a food vendor, contact Takahiro Omori at omori@marianaresort.com or William Renato at william.re-

See HANMI on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Inaugural Budweiser Go Kart Championship is set for April 6, 2013 at the Mariana Seaside Circuit.